

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 143

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING FOUR IDAHO SERVICEMEN WHO
FOUGHT AND LOST THEIR LIVES IN AFGHANISTAN WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, American service members, many of them Idahoans, or their family members have served their country honorably and at great personal sacrifice in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, four persons with Idaho ties paid the ultimate sacrifice within the past year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Specialist Thomas P. Murach, age 22 years and 11 months, of Meridian was killed in action on May 4, 2013, in Maiwand, Afghanistan. Thomas graduated with honors from Cole Valley Christian School in May 2008. In September 2010, Thomas entered the U.S. Army as an infantryman. After completing the Infantry Training Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Shortly thereafter, Thomas was selected to be a member of Reconnaissance Platoon. In December 2012 he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Thomas's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Afghan Campaign Medal with a Campaign Star. Thomas is survived by his mother, Mary; brothers Nick, Will, and Mike; father, Chet; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Octavio "Tavo/Tavis/Bean" Herrera, age 26, of Caldwell was killed in action on August 11, 2013, in Dzadran, Afghanistan. Octavio graduated from Caldwell High School in 2005 and attended college in Phoenix, Arizona, and at Boise State University. Octavio joined the U.S. Army in July 2007 and was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he deployed twice to Afghanistan. He arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in September 2012 and reenlisted for five more years during his third deployment to Afghanistan in 2013. He also went on an aid mission to Haiti through the U.S. Army to assist the country after the devastating hurricane. He was selected as one of an honorable few who participated in the D-Day reenactment of the parachute jump into Normandy, which he always noted as one of the highlights and honors of his career. His awards include two Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, an Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (Third Campaign Phase), a Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Army Service Ribbon, an Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 2 Device, two NATO Medals, a Combat Action Badge, a Parachute Badge and an Air Assault Badge. Octavio will be receiving the Bronze Star

1 and the Purple Heart Medals posthumously. Octavio is survived by his wife,
2 Courtney R. Herrera, of Clarksville, Tennessee, and his parents, Gerardo
3 and Angelica Herrera, both of Caldwell, Idaho, by way of Zacatecas, Mexico.
4 He is also survived by his brother Sergio and his family Pricilla, Gabriel,
5 and Caitlynn; by his brother Miguel and his family Dulce, Evany, Daliah
6 and Miguelito; by his sister and pride and joy, Claudia, and her fiancée
7 David, all from Caldwell, Idaho. He will be forever missed by his nieces and
8 nephews, whom he loved dearly; and

9 WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force Captain David I. Lyon, age 28, was killed in
10 action in Kabul, Afghanistan, on December 27, 2013. David was from Sandpoint
11 and attended the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School and
12 graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2008. David was a standout track and
13 field athlete, he was a Mountain West Conference champion, team captain, and
14 Strength and Conditioning All-American. David set athletic records at the
15 Air Force Academy and in Sandpoint, where his athletic success positioned
16 him to become the first football player from Idaho to play for the Air Force
17 Academy. David was known as a tender warrior, was lighthearted and a gentle
18 giant. Kind and compassionate to everyone he met, David's smile would light
19 up a room. He was a silent leader who earned the respect of his authority and
20 peers. He and his wife, Dana, had an inspiring marriage, where together they
21 coached and mentored young athletes, sponsored Air Force Academy cadets,
22 and volunteered with the Air Force Wounded Warrior program. David has been
23 awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Medals.
24 David is survived by his wife, Captain Dana (Pounds) Lyon of Lexington, Ken-
25 tucky, a 2006 Air Force Academy graduate; parents Bob and Jeannie Lyon and
26 brother Sean Lyon, all of Sandpoint; parents-in-law Rick and Nancy Pounds of
27 Lexington, Kentucky; grandparents Ray and Imogene Davis; step-grandmother
28 Beth Davis; brothers-in-law Eric and Darren Pounds; and his canine "Colt
29 .45"; and

30 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Specialist Mitchell K. Daehling, age 24 years and 10
31 months, with ties to Lewiston and Pocatello, was killed in action on May 14,
32 2013, in Zharay, Afghanistan. Mitchell was born in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and
33 was educated in Pocatello schools and attended Daniel Webster College in
34 Nashua, New Hampshire, from 2006 to 2010, majoring in homeland security.
35 Mitchell attended Infantry Combat School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where
36 he received his blue cord at "Turning Blue" ceremonies, which signifies
37 entry as an infantryman. He graduated from Combat School on December 16,
38 2010, with ceremonies at the National Infantry Museum. After graduation,
39 Mitchell was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, with A Company,
40 Third Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, First Brigade Combat Team, First
41 Armored Division. He was promoted to specialist in June 2012 and deployed
42 to Afghanistan in December 2012. Mitchell was a team leader and squad des-
43 ignated marksman-expert level shooter while deployed in Afghanistan. He
44 was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Cam-
45 paign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal,
46 Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat and Special Skills
47 Badge and the Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge-Expert. Mitchell was posthu-
48 mously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct
49 Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and the NATO Medal. Mitchell enjoyed all
50 sports, motorcycles, hunting, fishing, paintball and playing his guitar.

1 He was a licensed pilot and loved to fly. While in high school, he was a
2 member of the varsity soccer team and in college was a member of the lacrosse
3 team. Mitchell is survived by his wife, Samantha J. Daehling, of Westford,
4 Massachusetts; mother and father, Kirk and Brenda Daehling of Dalton, Massa-
5 chusetts; parents-in-law, John and Sharon McNamara; and brother and sister,
6 Adam and Kayla Daehling of Dalton, Massachusetts. Mitchell was predeceased
7 by his maternal grandfather, Kenneth J. Sander, a Purple Heart Medal recipi-
8 ent who served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and who died
9 in 2009. Mitchell was buried next to his grandfather in Lewiston.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
11 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
12 resentatives concurring therein, that we honor, memorialize and commemorate
13 U.S. Army Specialist Thomas P. Murach, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Octavio Her-
14 rera, U.S. Air Force Captain David I. Lyon and U.S. Army Specialist Mitchell
15 K. Daehling for their unselfish service to our country, fighting for our
16 freedoms, and we recognize, honor and memorialize their ultimate sacrifice.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to
18 send a copy of this Concurrent Resolution to the immediate families of the
19 servicemen mentioned above.