

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Specialist Austin J. Sampson of Bliss, New York, and paying tribute to his distinguished service as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Enduring Freedom will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably during Operation Enduring Freedom, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Specialist Austin J. Sampson of Bliss, New York, and pays tribute to his distinguished service as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 12, 1987, in Fort Worth, Texas, 25 year-old Specialist Austin J. Sampson died on January 4, 2013, in Temple, Texas; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Letchworth Central School in 2006, Specialist Austin J. Sampson was on the school's football, swimming and track teams; and

WHEREAS, Austin J. Sampson enlisted in the United States Army in 2006, and completed both his basic training and advanced training at Fort Knox, Kentucky; he had been stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, since 2010; he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2007-2009, and Operation New Dawn from 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Good Conduct Medals and the National Defense Service Medal, Specialist Austin J. Sampson was also awarded the Iraqi Campaign Medal with three campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Army Service and Overseas Service ribbons; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Austin J. Sampson was a member of the Letchworth New Life Fellowship in Silver Springs, New York; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Austin J. Sampson is survived by his parents, Wesley and Pamela Sampson; his siblings, SSG Stephen Sampson, Sheryl Sampson, David (Bianca) Sampson, J. Marshall Carter, Krystal Carter, CPL Robert (Faira) Sampson, Zachary Foreman, Joseph Carter, and Bennett Carter; his two grandmothers, Pauline Sampson and Carolyn Shelnut; and 13 nieces and nephews, Meghan, Rachel, Nicholas, Jada, Damian, Addrianna, Andrew, Jonathan, Isabella, Jalissya, Audrey, Derek and Cameron; as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Specialist Austin J. Sampson of Bliss, New

York, and pay tribute to his distinguished service as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Specialist Austin J. Sampson.