

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur, and paying tribute to his courageous actions 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 Iraqi 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 Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur, a team leader with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division died in Nerkh, Afghanistan on Monday, June 1, 2009, in a roadside bomb attack; and

WHEREAS, The 2-87th deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the January 2009 timeframe; Sergeant Obakrairur of Hilo, Hawaii, joined the United States Army in March of 2004, and served at Fort Drum since August of that year; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur, 26 years old, was a graduate of the Combat Life Savers Course and Warrior Leader Course among others; previously he deployed to Afghanistan from January 2006 to May 2007; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding soldier's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2), NATO Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Combat Infantry Badge; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur is survived by his mother, Florence Kambalang; father, Demei Obakrairur; and one sister; 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 Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur, and to pay tribute to his courageous actions 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 Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur.