

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 267

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the life of Sergeant Brandon M. Read on the occasion of the Greeneville Army Reserve Center being named in his honor.

WHEREAS, from time to time, it is necessary for the members of this General Assembly to pay tribute to the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Brandon Michael Read, who was killed in action on September 6, 2004, in Q-West, Iraq, and whose ultimate sacrifice will be properly recognized on Saturday, April 8, 2017, upon the renaming of the Greeneville Army Reserve Center in his honor; and

WHEREAS, born on June 5, 1983, in Panama City, Panama, Brandon Michael Read was the beloved son of Michael Read and R. Kelli Courtright Read; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Read was a 2001 graduate of Greeneville High School, and he attended Walters State Community College; and

WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of his father, Brandon Read joined the Army Reserve before his high school graduation; both men were attached to the 639<sup>th</sup> TC out of Kingsport; during their first activation, they were sent to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, to support the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne; and

WHEREAS, after ten months of activation, Sergeant Brandon Read returned home to his job; on Mother's Day in 2004, he was reactivated and attached to the 125<sup>th</sup> TC out of Lexington, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Read was holding the gunner position on a mission near Mosul when his truck was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED); while the truck was heavily damaged, Sergeant Read and the driver were only slightly injured; and

WHEREAS, on the return mission, Sergeant Read was again at the gunner position when his truck was struck by the IED that claimed his life; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Sergeant Brandon Read did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty, and he served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Brandon Read's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family and friends, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history, and his ultimate sacrifice deserves proper recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the life of Sergeant Brandon M. Read on the occasion of the Greeneville Army Reserve Center being renamed in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.