

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9019

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss, United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State has been the home of many valiant men and women who performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Army; sadly, many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss of Corryton was one of thirteen American Armed Forces members who were killed in a bombing attack at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 graduate of Gibbs High School, Sergeant Knauss was a top student in the school's JROTC program and enlisted in the United States Army shortly after his graduation, fulfilling a lifelong dream of entering military service; he had hoped to one day serve in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Group; in 2017 and 2018, he completed a nine-month tour in Afghanistan as a paratrooper with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knauss was called the "embodiment of an Army Special Operations Forces soldier" by Colonel Jeremy Mushtare of the 8<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Group; and

WHEREAS, the last American Servicemember to die in the twenty-year war in Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss is survived by his wife, Alena Knauss; mother, Paula Knauss; father, Greg Knauss; brother, Tyler Knauss; and numerous extended family members; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life in service to his country, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knauss's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, 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

WHEREAS, this General Assembly joins with Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss's family and friends in mourning the untimely death of this courageous young Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss of the United States Army, reflecting upon his impeccable character and stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We extend our profound condolences to his family for the loss of this valiant American hero.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.