

## ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 11**

Introduced by Bloomfield, 17; Brasch, 16; Coash, 27; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Fulton, 29; Hadley, 37; Harms, 48; Heidemann, 1; Howard, 9; Krist, 10; Lambert, 2; Lathrop, 12; Mello, 5; Nelson, 6; Price, 3; Schumacher, 22; Sullivan, 41; Wallman, 30.

WHEREAS, "Freedom is Not Free," and our members of the armed forces of the United States of America lead the way in bringing peace, democracy, and the joy of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, our young men and women of the armed forces swear to defend the United States of America against all evil; and

WHEREAS, our young men and women of the armed forces leave home, family, and employment behind and embark upon a journey for which they do not know if they will be reunited; and

WHEREAS, the bravery and dedication of our American military is above all measures a display of loyalty, perseverance, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, there are those who leave us way too early and return adorned with the flag of the United States of America - "Old Glory"; and

WHEREAS, such a young soldier has returned home to his loved ones having given the ultimate sacrifice - life - for our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Master at Arms Class I John Douangdara gave his life on August 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS, John was deployed on his third mission to Afghanistan in June 2011, with two deployments to Iraq earlier, as a lead dog handler for his unit, the Elite Team 6 of the Navy SEALs; and

WHEREAS, in response to a call for assistance, a Chinook helicopter (CH-47) carrying five aircrew, seventeen Navy SEALs, five naval special operations support personnel, three Air Force special tactics airmen, one military working dog, seven Afghan soldiers, and one interpreter was shot down by an insurgent rocket-propelled grenade in eastern Afghanistan, namely, Wardak Province, as the helicopter approached its combat landing zone. This was an immediate response force answering the call to duty; and

WHEREAS, this incident was the deadliest in the decade-long war in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Master at Arms Class I John Douangdara served his nation with honor, and this resolution honors his service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, John left behind his parents, Phouthasith and Sengchanh Douangdara, and five siblings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SPECIAL SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice made by Master at Arms Class I John Douangdara and his family for our freedom. There is no price that will ever repay this soldier and his family for what John did out of love for God, country, family, and freedom for one and all.

2. That the Legislature extends its sympathy and gratitude to the loved ones of Master at Arms Class I John Douangdara. Indeed, "Freedom is Not Free." May his soul rest in peace and may God bless America.