

No. R-456. Senate concurrent resolution recognizing the efforts of the Vermont Fallen Families in building Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center, Vermont.

(S.C.R.50)

By Senators Doyle, Brock, Ayer, Campbell, Carris, Choate, Cummings, Flory, Giard, Lyons, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Scott, Shumlin, Starr and White,

By Representatives Head of South Burlington, Baker of West Rutland, Moran of Wardsboro, Olsen of Jamaica, Ram of Burlington, Savage of Swanton, South of St. Johnsbury and Stevens of Waterbury,

Whereas, the Vermont Fallen Families comprise the families and supporters of Vermont's military personnel who have died in Afghanistan or Iraq during the Global War on Terror, and

Whereas, they have supported one another and veterans' issues in general for more than six years, and

Whereas, since 2007 the Vermont Fallen Families have been working determinedly with Governor James Douglas, the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board, the Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, plus private organizations and individuals, to create a lasting memorial for all fallen Vermont service members of the Global War on Terror, and

Whereas, in 2008 the Vermont Fallen Families incorporated a charitable corporation entitled Vermont Fallen Heroes GWOT Memorial Fund Inc. for the sole purpose of creating and building Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial, and

Whereas, our 36 Vermont Fallen Global War on Terror heroes are: Chief Warrant Officer Erik Halvorsen, Bennington; Corporal Mark Evnin, Burlington; Sergeant Justin Garvey, Proctor; Private Kyle Gilbert, Brattleboro; Staff Sergeant Scott Rose, Springfield; First Lieutenant Pierre Piche, Starksboro; Specialist Solomon Bangayan, Jay; Sergeant Bill Normandy, East Barre; Specialist Christopher Gelineau, Bristol; Sergeant Kevin Sheehan, Milton; Sergeant Alan Bean, Jr., Bridport; Staff Sergeant Jamie Gray, East Montpelier; Lieutenant Colonel David Greene, Shelburne; Sergeant Michael Voss, Enosburg; Major C. Robert Soltes, Norwich University; Lance Corporal Jeffery Holmes, Hartford; Colonel James Moore, Norwich University; Sergeant Jesse Strong, Irasburg; Lance Corporal Adam Strain, North Hero; Sergeant First Class Michael Benson, Colchester; Master Sergeant Chris Chapin, Proctor; First Lieutenant Mark Dooley, Wilmington; Specialist Scott McLaughlin, Hardwick; Second Lieutenant Mark Procopio, Stowe; Sergeant Joshua Johnson, Richford; Specialist Chris Merchant, Hardwick; Sergeant J. Tom Stone, Tunbridge; Lance Corporal Kurt Dechen, Springfield; Sergeant Carlton Clark, Sharon; Captain Anthony Palermo, Norwich University; Sergeant Adam Kennedy, Norwich University; Corporal Chris DeGiovine, Essex Junction; Private First Class Adam Muller, Jonesville; Sergeant First Class Jason Dene, Castleton; Corporal Ryan McGhee, Springfield; and Second Lieutenant Joseph Fortin, St. Johnsbury, and

Whereas, the Vermont Fallen Global War on Terror heroes represent the United States Marine Corps (7), the Vermont Army National Guard (11), and the United States Army (18) who died in Afghanistan (1) and Iraq (35), and

Whereas, on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2009, Governor James Douglas announced the Vermont Fallen Families would build a Global War on Terror Memorial with ground-breaking slated for Memorial Day 2010 and an official dedication on Veterans' Day 2010, and

Whereas, the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board with the approval of the Adjutant General has designated a prominent location at the entrance to Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center, and

Whereas, Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial designer Dana Morissette's poignant words are extremely moving to all Vermont Fallen Families and state in part:

That they have chosen my design is humbling. ... The entire memorial is made of select Barre gray granite quarried in central Vermont. The overall dimensions are 38-feet wide, 44-feet long, and 6-feet high.

At the heart of the memorial stands a granite sculpture titled 'Falling Leaves.' It consists of a semi-circular pedestal adorned with the five service emblems of the armed forces of The United States. Sitting on the pedestal is a life sized field memorial featuring an M16, helmet, boots and dog tags. In the background, there are relief carvings of a citizen soldier representing the patriotic spirit of Vermonters and the Vermont State House, which represents

the constitutions and freedoms for which they fought. A maple tree grows up the side as leaves representing the Fallen Patriots fall to the ground.

In front of the field memorial stands a low sarcophagus etched with the names and representing the body of Vermont's Fallen Patriots.

Surrounding the field memorial and sarcophagus are three semi-circular bench walls.

In the center of each bench wall stands a monolith. The monolith on the left is dedicated to all those from Vermont who have served in the Global War on Terror. It has a hand tooled War on Terror Service Medal. The monolith on the right is dedicated to the families of the fallen and the great sacrifices they have made. It has a hand tooled Vermont Patriot's Medal. The monolith in the back has a bronze dedication plaque and expresses the pride and sorrow of the citizens of Vermont.

Together the three monoliths – their family, their comrades and their fellow citizens stand as sentinels ready to guard the sacred honor of the fallen, and

Whereas, the state of Vermont, Revision Eyewear (Essex Junction), Plasan North America, Inc. (Bennington), J.A. McDonald, Inc. (Lyndon Center), Granite Industries of Vermont (Barre), Rock of Ages (Graniteville), Granite Corporation of Barre, and Accura Printing (South Barre), plus over 1,000 individual donors, are major supporters of Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial, and

Whereas, Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial will be a lasting tribute to our fallen heroes who have made the "ultimate sacrifice" protecting our country and defending our freedom and will ensure they are not forgotten, and

Whereas, the General Assembly is extremely supportive of this project even though it is unable to appropriate any funding at this time, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the tremendous personal sacrifices of the Vermont Fallen Families and their unrelenting commitment to building Vermont's Global War on Terror Memorial, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the officers and directors of Vermont Fallen Heroes GWOT Memorial Fund Inc., to Chris Louras, chair of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, to Clayton Clark, director of the Vermont office of Veterans Affairs, to Major General Michael Dubie, the Adjutant General, and to the Vermont congressional delegation.