

No. R-13. House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont National Guard Sergeant Tristan H. Southworth of Walden.

(H.C.R.4)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, Tristan Southworth, a 2007 graduate of Hazen Union High School, excelled on the school's baseball and soccer teams, and

Whereas, even more noteworthy, he consistently demonstrated concern for the well-being of other individuals, and

Whereas, in pursuit of his ambition to serve in the United States Armed Forces, Tristan Southworth enlisted in the Vermont National Guard as an 11th grader and wore his new uniform for his yearbook photograph, and

Whereas, he studied at the University of Colorado at Boulder prior to his deployment to Afghanistan as a member of the Vermont National Guard's Alpha Company 3-172nd Infantry which was assigned to the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and

Whereas, on August 22, 2010, Sgt. Southworth was serving in Paktika Province, a mere dozen miles from the Pakistan border and as part of a two-platoon contingent, consisting of Vermont National Guard personnel and Afghan police members, and

Whereas, these platoons came under a combined barrage of a rocket attack and small arms fire from Afghan insurgents, and

Whereas, Sgt. Tristan Southworth, following his natural instincts, came to the aid of a fellow Vermont soldier in need of immediate assistance, and this act of support for a comrade sadly cost him his life, and

Whereas, this warm and compassionate human being made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our nation, and

Whereas, Sgt. Tristan Southworth was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant and awarded a Purple Heart, bronze star, and a combat infantry badge, and

Whereas, the esteem that his friends, former schoolmates, teachers, and his hometown of Walden held for Sgt. Tristan Southworth was proudly displayed when a large assembly of 1,400 persons attended his memorial service at the Hazen Union High School gymnasium on September 1, 2010, and

Whereas, among the mourners were his parents, Michael and Julie Southworth, his two brothers, Matt and Robert, his grandparents, Zollie and Maren Altman of South Wheelock and Keith and Kathleen Southworth of West Pawlet, and many other members of his extended family, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family of Vermont National Guard Sergeant Tristan Southworth whose deep commitment to serving our nation and helping his fellow soldiers will serve as a lasting tribute to his short but extremely meaningful life, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the parents, grandparents, and brothers of Sgt. Tristan Southworth.