

2012 -- S 2859

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE DENNIS WEICHEL FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS AND
EXTENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON HIS PASSING

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Gallo, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: April 10, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders and Americans are proud and thankful for the dedicated
2 service and great courage of Sergeant Dennis Weichel, and so it was with profound sadness that
3 we learned of his tragic passing as a result of his heroic actions while conducting military
4 operations in Afghanistan; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Dennis Weichel, an Army National Guardsman from Rhode
6 Island, encountered a life and death situation and without a moment's hesitation, did the
7 extraordinary, and saved a child's life. In doing so, he made the ultimate sacrifice of his own life;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The beloved son of Linda and Dennis Weichel, Sergeant Weichel was a
10 loving fiancé to Ashley-Ann Ravon and a devoted father of Nicholas, Hope, and
11 Madison. Previous to his deployment, Sergeant Weichel had been a resident of the City of
12 Providence; and

13 WHEREAS, As member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, Sergeant Weichel
14 had been deployed to Afghanistan. While riding in a convoy, his unit encountered children
15 collecting shell casings on the road ahead of the unit's truck, a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected
16 vehicle that weighs more than 16 tons; and

17 WHEREAS, The soldiers urged the children to get out of the way but one young child
18 ran back to pick up more casings from underneath the massive vehicle. Seeing that the child was
19 in imminent peril, Sergeant Weichel reacted immediately and lifted him out of the way but his

1 heroic efforts had dire consequences. He was then struck by the truck and later died as a result of
2 his injuries; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Weichel has been posthumously awarded with the Bronze Star, the
4 nation's fourth highest award for bravery, the Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon, and the NATO
5 Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Rhode Island Star, the state's second highest
6 military award, and was posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 26, 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Our thoughts and hearts hold great empathy and sorrow for the family of
8 Sergeant Dennis Weichel and it is essential that they know they are never far from our thoughts
9 and prayers; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby recognizes and honors Sergeant Dennis Weichel for his courage, sacrifice, and
12 commitment. We furthermore recognize that our freedom and human rights are safeguarded by
13 the heroic service and the actions of all the valiant and dauntless members of the Armed Forces;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire
16 Weichel Family on the passing of Sergeant Dennis Weichel. His selflessness and compassion will
17 long be remembered by this body and the citizens of our state; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Weichel and Family.

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