

No. R-418. House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Joseph Douglas Fortin of St. Johnsbury.

(H.C.R.301)

Offered by: All members of the House of Representatives

Offered by: All members of the Senate

Whereas, Joseph Fortin, a native of St. Johnsbury, was a brave American who was committed to serving our nation in the United States Armed Forces, and

Whereas, he graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 2004, where the headmaster described him as a caring, reflective, and thoughtful student, and

Whereas, after earning his criminal justice degree from Roger Williams University in 2008, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army, and

Whereas, once on active duty, 2nd Lt. Joseph Fortin was trained as a fire support officer with the 1st Cavalry Division 1-7 “Garryowen,” based in Fort Hood, Texas, and he was deployed to Iraq, and

Whereas, on August 23, 2009, 2nd Lt. Fortin was in a military vehicle traveling in the Iraqi town of Muhallah, near Baghdad, when an improvised explosive device struck the vehicle and killed him, and

Whereas, all Vermonters, and especially his wife, Nicquelle; parents, Martin and Betsy Fortin; sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and Steve McKinney; sister, Jocelyn Fortin; paternal grandmother, Virginia Fortin; and maternal grandparents, Donald and Sunny Wood, were all saddened on learning of his untimely death, and

Whereas, St. Johnsbury Academy and the citizens of his hometown honored 2nd Lt. Joseph Fortin by having him lie in state at Fuller Hall on the academy's campus, and

Whereas, at a memorial service held in the St. Johnsbury Academy Alumni Gymnasium, the town of St. Johnsbury and leading state dignitaries, including Governor James Douglas and Vermont National Guard adjutant general, Major General Michael Dubie, paid their final respects to this fallen soldier, and

Whereas, the death of 2nd Lt. Joseph Fortin is a tragic loss, and his presence will be deeply missed by his family and many friends, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its most profound sympathies to the family of U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Joseph Douglas Fortin who died in military service, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to his wife, parents, sisters, grandparents, and Headmaster Tom Lovett at St. Johnsbury Academy.