

SENATE RESOLUTION

8693

By Senator Zeiger

1 WHEREAS, Ronald J. Shurer II was born on December 7, 1978, in  
2 Fairbanks, Alaska; and

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer spent most of his childhood in  
4 Tacoma, Washington while his father was stationed at McChord Air  
5 Force Base; and

6 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer graduated from Rogers High School  
7 in Puyallup, Washington in 1997 and Washington State University in  
8 2001, where he received a bachelor's degree in business  
9 administration; and

10 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer enlisted in the United States Army  
11 from Spokane, Washington in September 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer trained as an army medic and  
13 subsequently qualified to train as a Special Forces medic; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer was deployed with Combined Joint  
15 Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan from November 2007 to  
16 May 2008 in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer participated in a joint U.S.-  
18 Afghan raid on April 6, 2008, designed to kill or capture Gulbuddin  
19 Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin in the Shok  
20 Valley of Nuristan Province in Afghanistan; and

21 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer's team came under enemy machine  
22 gun, sniper, and rocket-propelled grenade fire while moving through

1 the valley. The team suffered casualties and became pinned down on a  
2 mountainside; and

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer ran through enemy fire to rescue  
4 wounded soldiers and returned fire, killing several insurgents; and

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer treated a soldier who lost a leg,  
6 another who had RPG shrapnel in his neck, and helped evacuate the  
7 wounded to a medevac helicopter, at times using his body as a shield  
8 against debris; and

9 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer was initially awarded the Silver  
10 Star for his role in the operation. In 2016, the Pentagon conducted a  
11 review of all valor medals awarded since the 9/11 terror attacks and  
12 this resulted in Shurer's award being upgraded; and

13 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Shurer received the Medal of Honor from  
14 President Donald Trump on October 1, 2018, in a ceremony at the White  
15 House;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in celebration of his  
17 bravery and dedication to his fellow soldiers, the Washington State  
18 Senate express its gratitude to Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Shurer II  
19 for his many services to our nation; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
21 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Shurer  
22 family, in recognition and appreciation of Shurer's commitment to the  
23 United States Army.

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