

SENATE RESOLUTION

8693

By Senators Zeiger and Das

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
2 on a mountainside; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
27 do hereby certify that this is a true and
28 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8693,
29 adopted by the Senate
30 February 27, 2020

31 BRAD HENDRICKSON
32 Secretary of the Senate