

By Senator Lawson

41-2351-02

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution of remembrance and respect for
3 Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Matthew Joseph
4 Bourgeois who died in Afghanistan.

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6 WHEREAS, Matthew Joseph Bourgeois, 35, a Navy SEAL
7 hospital corpsman from Tallahassee died March 28, 2002, during
8 a training mission near a U.S. base in Kandahar, Afghanistan,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Matthew enlisted in the Navy after graduation
11 from Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida, and entered
12 Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) training in
13 San Diego, graduating in 1988, and

14 WHEREAS, his various awards and decorations include the
15 Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine
16 Corps Achievement Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal after
17 serving in the Persian Gulf War, and

18 WHEREAS, Matthew, who loved being a SEAL, was a
19 third-generation member of the U.S. Armed Services, and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Bourgeois was only weeks away from
21 returning home to his wife, Michelle, and 7-month-old son,
22 Matthew, Jr., and

23 WHEREAS, his wife Michelle wrote to a family friend,
24 "He had perseverance and determination, which made him
25 excellent at his job. He was always striving to be the best.
26 Matt knew it was a difficult and dangerous job, but that never
27 deterred him.", NOW, THEREFORE,

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29 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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1 That Matthew Bourgeois is remembered and respected for
2 making the ultimate sacrifice for his family and his country.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
4 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
5 family of Matthew Bourgeois as a tangible token of the
6 sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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