

By Senator Argenziano

3-1621A-04

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing and commending Aaron
3 Weaver.

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5 WHEREAS, Aaron Weaver was born in Clearwater and was
6 educated in the Citrus County Public School System, graduating
7 from Citrus County High School in 1989, where he excelled as a
8 student, achieving the Honor Roll, and as an athlete in
9 soccer, track, and cross-country, earning All-County Honors in
10 Cross-Country, and

11 WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Aaron joined
12 the U.S. Army, was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division,
13 trained to become an Army Ranger, and later served as a member
14 of the Ranger Strike Team that was deployed in October 1993 to
15 capture two Somali Warlord Lieutenants from a stronghold in
16 Mogadishu, Somalia, resulting in a fierce battle in which two
17 Black Hawk Helicopters were shot down, 18 U.S. soldiers were
18 killed, more than 80 other U.S. soldiers were wounded, and
19 more than 300 Somalis were killed, and

20 WHEREAS, during the battle, while commanding a Humvee,
21 Aaron courageously attempted to reach one of the downed Black
22 Hawk Helicopters to retrieve those who were aboard when it was
23 shot down, received fire from three directions, and barely
24 avoided disaster when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded at
25 the door of his Humvee, injuring some of his passengers, but
26 leaving Aaron with only a few minor cuts, and

27 WHEREAS, in 1994, Aaron was awarded the Bronze Star for
28 "extreme courage under fire" and shortly thereafter was
29 honorably discharged, returned home to Citrus County, and
30 enrolled in Central Florida Community College until

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1 re-enlisting in the U.S. Army to rejoin the 82nd Airborne
2 Division and become a helicopter pilot, and

3 WHEREAS, after completing flight school at Fort Rucker,
4 Alabama, Aaron began flying Kiowa Helicopters in active duty
5 with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
6 He was stricken with testicular cancer, resulting in surgical
7 removal of both testicles, threatening an early end to his
8 life and discontinuation of his military career, and

9 WHEREAS, after surgery, Aaron continued to be examined
10 for evidence of recurring cancer, undergoing two exploratory
11 abdominal surgeries, hospitalizing him for more than 6 months,
12 following which Aaron requested and obtained medical waivers,
13 allowing him to return to active duty with periodic medical
14 testing to ensure that any recurrence of cancer, which was
15 then in remission, would be promptly discovered and treated,
16 and

17 WHEREAS, at Aaron's urging, the Army then deployed him
18 to Iraq to rejoin the 82nd Airborne Division in active duty,
19 flying a Kiowa Helicopter on observation missions, and getting
20 his bimonthly cancer checkups at the U.S. Army Base Hospital
21 at Baghdad International Airport, which was his destination on
22 January 8, 2004, when the Black Hawk Helicopter transporting
23 him from his duty post to the base hospital for medical
24 testing was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and crashed,
25 killing Aaron, age 32, and eight other U.S. soldiers aboard
26 the aircraft, and

27 WHEREAS, Aaron's tragic death left his wife, Nancy, his
28 two children, 10-year-old stepson, Austin, and 1-year-old
29 daughter, Savannah, his father, Mike, his mother, Kelly, his
30 two brothers, Steve and Ryan, both of whom are Army helicopter
31 pilots, and five sisters, one of whom, Regina, is in the Air

1 Force, and a community of hometown residents who admire and
2 respect the bravery and patriotic spirit of this young man who
3 seemed always ready to courageously sacrifice his personal
4 safety for the welfare of others, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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8 That the Florida Senate posthumously recognizes and
9 commends Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver for his patriotic
10 commitment to serving the causes of freedom, his valiant acts
11 of courage under fire, and his legacy of honorable service as
12 a member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, leading the
13 fight against terrorism and tyranny when it threatens to
14 oppress the exercise of fundamental rights necessary to
15 establish and maintain a free society of people.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
17 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Aaron's
18 wife, Nancy, as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
19 Florida Senate.

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