

By Senator Fasano

11-01899-12

20122032

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the valor and distinguished service of United States Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith.

WHEREAS, Paul Ray Smith was born on September 24, 1969, in El Paso, Texas, and moved with his family to Tampa when he was nine years old, and

WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith served his country with great valor and distinction as a member of Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith was well-known among his fellow soldiers as a strong, exceptional leader who "led from the front," and

WHEREAS, during battle on April 4, 2003, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith and his fellow soldiers, although significantly outnumbered, fought with great determination to protect the lives and positions of other soldiers in the area, and

WHEREAS, during that battle, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith repeatedly exposed himself to overwhelming enemy fire until he was fatally wounded, and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in recognition of his heroic actions on that day, and

WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to express its untold gratitude to Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith's widow, Birgit, and his children, David and Jessica, who currently reside in Holiday,

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30 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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34 That the members of the Senate recognize Army Sergeant
35 First Class Paul Ray Smith, whose sacrificial conduct epitomizes
36 the extraordinary character and selfless nature of our nation's
37 fighting forces, and honor the ultimate sacrifice made on behalf
38 of a grateful nation.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
40 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the family of
41 United States Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith as a
42 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.