

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3059

(Representatives Eidson, Dockter, Grueneich, Kasper, Keiser, Laning, Owens, Pyle, M. Ruby)
(Senators Bekkedahl, G. Lee, Marcellais)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass, and President Donald Trump to sign, House Resolution 1911, also known as the SFC Brian Woods Gold Star and Military Survivors Act.

WHEREAS, Army Sergeant 1st Class William Brian Woods, Jr. (SFC Brian Woods), a decorated special forces medical sergeant, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and died of wounds sustained while on patrol in Afghanistan in 2009. He was survived by a wife and two young children; and

WHEREAS, service members and their families endure hardships and make sacrifices unique to the military in the service of honor, duty, freedom, and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, one way we, as a grateful nation, honor those hardships and sacrifices is by promising we will provide financially for spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty. In the words of Representative Seth Moulton of Delaware, "[w]hen Gold Star spouses are handed a folded flag, it comes with a sacred commitment from the American people. That commitment is for life That means Gold Star families should have the peace of mind that comes with knowing child care and funeral expenses are taken care of and that they will receive the nation's lifelong financial support"; and

WHEREAS, under current law, widows and widowers of service members who die in the line of duty lose their annuities and other survivor benefits upon remarriage; and

WHEREAS, the SFC Brian Woods Gold Star and Military Survivors Act would require the United States Department of Defense to pay the costs of transporting the remains of a service member killed in combat to the service member's hometown for a memorial and to a national cemetery of the Gold Star family's choice, and allow remarried Gold Star widows and widowers to continue to receive annuities and child care service assistance and, if they have dependent children, continue to access facilities on military bases; and

WHEREAS, it is consistent with North Dakotans' strong support for service members to uphold the nation's promise to care for Gold Star spouses throughout their lifetimes, as provided by the SFC Brian Woods Gold Star and Military Survivors Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to pass the SFC Brian Woods Gold Star and Military Survivors Act and urges President Donald Trump to sign the SFC Brian Woods Gold Star Military Survivors Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and President Donald Trump.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate