

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 81

By: Taylor and Hobson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution mourning the loss of Sergeant Kyle Brinlee; extending condolences to his friends and family; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Kyle Adam (Showler) Brinlee was the first member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as the first Oklahoma Army National Guard member to die in conflict since the Korean War. Specialist Brinlee, age 21, was killed on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, when his vehicle, one of six in a convoy, struck an improvised explosive device near Al Asad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Adam (Showler) Brinlee was born on February 17, 1983, in Claremore, Oklahoma, and grew up in Adair and Pryor. Kyle Brinlee graduated from Pryor High School in 2001, an above-average student who was liked by all and involved in various activities, including athletics as a member of the football team. Kyle liked riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles and working on cars. Having interest in carpentry and assisting his father part-time in the construction business, he helped install the floor in Pryor High School's new gymnasium. Kyle joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard in April 2001, just before graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brinlee had been deployed to Iraq with almost 600 others from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for almost three months before his death. He was serving as a masonry and carpentry specialist with Detachment 1, Company B of the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, 90th Troop Command, based in Pryor, Oklahoma. The

Battalion was mobilized for duty in December 2003, first heading to Fort Sill for pre-deployment training, then to Kuwait, before basing in Al Asad, near Fallujah. The 120th specializes in construction, such as building roads and bridges, and clearing areas in combat zones; and

WHEREAS, while not a leader in terms of military rank, Kyle Brinlee was a leader in morale-building. Since he was a child, Kyle had a special way of making things better. Friends said he was loyal, a great friend and a great man who served his country as well as his family, and who strived to make a difference. He was funny, happy and well-liked. Always protective of his women relatives, Kyle cleaned his grandmother's house, screened telephone calls from boys for his sister, and took care of his mother, who died last year. In the field he placed his comrades at ease with a keen sense of humor. He was a self-achiever and the first to volunteer; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brinlee was the fourth Oklahoman killed in Iraq during a two-week period and the fifth within a month. He was the 16th Oklahoman to have died in Afghanistan or Iraq since March 23, 2003. Thirteen Oklahoman servicemen, including Kyle Brinlee and one civilian, have been killed in Iraq since combat began. Two other Oklahomans have died in Afghanistan. The National Guard posthumously awarded Specialist Brinlee two medals, the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and promoted him to the rank of Sergeant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate mourns the loss of Sergeant Kyle Brinlee, a promising young man who will be missed, not only by those he touched with his life, but also by those who will never know his kindness because of his untimely death.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate offers its most heartfelt condolences to the family of Sergeant Kyle Brinlee, his friends and

acquaintances in Pryor, Oklahoma, and his military comrades in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the family of Sergeant Kyle Brinlee and to the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

49-2-3486

THC

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