

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1100

By: Rousselot

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution honoring the life, service, and sacrifice of James Randolph Graham III; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, James Randolph Graham III was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on April 15, 1980, where he attended public schools and was a 1997 graduate of Nathan Hale High School; and

WHEREAS, James Randolph Graham III laid the foundation for a life built on service, discipline, and dedication early in life by joining the Cub Scouts in the 1st grade and the Boy Scouts in the 5th grade. In 1993, James received the prestigious award of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, James Randolph Graham III was not only active in scouting, but had a great love for athletics where he participated in football, basketball, track, and baseball during his school years. His active lifestyle carried over to adulthood as he played for adult league flag football, baseball, and softball teams and even earned a blue belt in kick boxing and a brown belt in military martial arts as he aspired to be an instructor; and

WHEREAS, James Randolph Graham III garnered awards and excelled on the field, but James' greatest love and drive to excel was his family that he began with his wife, Melissa Sue Graham and their two sons, James Randolph Graham IV and Thomas Ray Graham. They made their home in Coweta, Oklahoma with the desire to raise their boys in a small town atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, while the love was plentiful, the resources for his budding family early on were not and James worked from the ground floor up to the position of manager in the food service industry and in April of 1998, James answered the call to serve our great nation by entering the United States Marine Corps. His tremendous work ethic was once again demonstrated as he worked his way up the ranks and eventually earned the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, James Randolph Graham III exhibited loyalty to his unit by declining to remain in training as an NCO instructor while in Japan and joining them in Iraq in January of 2005 where they were stationed in Hit, Iraq. Among the dangerous but necessary duties he carried out was to patrol the city and search vehicles for insurgents. In August of 2005, James Graham gave the ultimate sacrifice when a suicide bomber struck his vehicle while James dutifully served our country on his searches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives continue to recognize the significant contributions of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and encourage the support of the legislation that will honor Sergeant James Randolph Graham III with a naming of a portion of a state highway.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Katrina Graham.

50-2-9927

MD

04/05/06