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2 for worldwide freedom. 3 Whereas, the decision to go to war, whatever the goals may be, should never be, and in Operation Iraqi Freedom has not been, made without due consideration of the 4 5 costs incurred and the costs that transcend more than mere money and include much 6 more valuable commodities, such as human life; and Whereas, Operation Iraqi Freedom began on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, with 7 8 the intent to liberate the Iraqi people and eliminate the threat that the dictator, 9 Saddam Hussein, presents worldwide; and 10 Whereas, in the execution of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the armed forces have suffered a number of casualties, including deaths, 11 12 injuries, and the capture of a number of United States service members who were 13 held as prisoners-of-war; and

Relating to: honoring the 4 Wisconsin citizens who lost their lives fighting in Iraq

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Whereas, the nation has also recognized the service and sacrifice of those members of the armed forces who were killed or missing—in—action with appropriate tributes and days of remembrance; and

Whereas, the people of Wisconsin are eternally grateful for the service and sacrifice of their servicemen and servicewomen in support of this country; and

Whereas, it is fitting and appropriate to remember all Wisconsinites who served in this conflict, and in particular those who died or were injured, with permanent memorials in their honor; and

Whereas, the following Wisconsinites have died in Iraq: Sgt. 1st Class Dan H. Gabrielson, 39, Frederic, died on July 9, 2003; Maj. Mathew E. Schram, 36, died on May 26, 2003; Sgt. Kirk Allen Straseskie, 23, Beaver Dam, died on May 19, 2003; and Spc. Paul J. Sturino, 21, Rice Lake, died on September 22, 2003; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature honor the sacrifice of the 4 Wisconsin citizens who lost their lives fighting for worldwide freedom and mourn their death; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall send copies of this joint resolution to the families of each of the 4 members of the armed services from Wisconsin who have died in Iraq.

(END)