2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 73

November 1, 2021 - Introduced by Senators DARLING, CARPENTER, NASS, MARKLEIN, BRADLEY, TESTIN, L. TAYLOR, SMITH, ROTH, RINGHAND, JACQUE, JOHNSON, COWLES, WANGGAARD, BEWLEY, WIRCH, JAGLER, BERNIER and FEYEN, cosponsored by Representatives SKOWRONSKI, VOS, HINTZ, VORPAGEL, SINICKI, SPIROS, TITTL, CALLAHAN, MAGNAFICI, VRUWINK, PETRYK, ARMSTRONG, JAMES, ROZAR, PLUMER, PRONSKINSKE, PENTERMAN, RAMTHUN, DITTRICH, DOYLE, MACCO, TUSLER, J. RODRIGUEZ, CABRAL-GUEVARA, GUNDRUM, MURSAU, SUBECK, DALLMAN, KERKMAN, BEHNKE, KNODL, HEBL, MILROY, B. MEYERS, SUMMERFIELD, KUGLITSCH, HESSELBEIN, SPREITZER, ZIMMERMAN, HORLACHER, TRANEL, CONLEY, VANDEMEER, LOUDENBECK, MOORE OMOKUNDE, ANDRACA, EMERSON, SNOGRASS, BROSTOFF, NEUBAUER, EDMING, SHELTON, DRAKE, MCGUIRE, BOWEN, OHNSTAD, WITITKE, SHANKLAND, ANDERSON, SWARINGEN, BALDEH, KITCHENS, ALLEN and CONSIDINE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: honoring the 13 U.S. service members who lost their lives on August 26, 2021.

Whereas, on October 7, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in response to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, U.S. service members strove to achieve peace and stability for the people of Afghanistan for nearly 20 years; and

Whereas, the United States negotiated a withdrawal of its armed forces by August 31, 2021; and

Whereas, the Taliban began a rapid takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, prompting hundreds of thousands of refugees to flee to Kabul to escape Taliban persecution; and

Whereas, U.S. marines, soldiers, and sailors were deployed to the Hamid Karzai International Airport to assist in evacuating U.S. citizens and Afghan refugees; and
Whereas, Marine Corps staff sergeant Darin T. Hoover, Marine Corps sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Marine Corps sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Marine Corps corporal Hunter Lopez, Marine Corps corporal Daegan W. Page, Marine Corps corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Marine Corps lance corporal David L. Espinoza, Marine Corps lance corporal Jared M. Schmitz, Marine Corps lance corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Marine Corps lance corporal Dylan R. Merola, Marine Corps lance corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Navy hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak, and Army staff sergeant Ryan C. Knauss lost their lives in the line of duty on August 26, 2021, in a suicide bombing that also killed at least 169 Afghan civilians; and

Whereas, these fallen service members included a newlywed expecting his first child, a brother to 12 loving siblings, an aspiring engineering student, and a Dominican American who was the pride of her local community; and

Whereas, all 13 men and women devoted themselves to serving their country and safeguarding the rescue of the innocent; and

Whereas, family members, friends, and neighbors have honored the lives of the fallen with candlelit vigils, motorcades, murals, and flags flown half-staff; and

Whereas, Americans will remember the bravery of these 13 fallen service members who were the last to lose their lives during the involvement of the United States in Afghanistan; and

Whereas, these fallen service members join the venerated ranks of 2,461 U.S. service members who gave their lives for Operation Enduring Freedom; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the members of the Wisconsin Legislature commemorate the remarkable lives of the fallen service
members and extend their deepest sympathies to the families, friends, and colleagues of the fallen service members.

(END)