
ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: the life and military service of Army Sergeant Matthew Pionk.

Whereas, Army Sergeant Matthew Pionk was born on October 10, 1977, in Duluth, Minnesota, grew up in Oliver, Wisconsin, and died of injuries sustained on January 9, 2008, from enemy action in Iraq; and

Whereas, Sergeant Pionk was a 1996 graduate of Superior High School in Superior, Wisconsin, and enlisted in the United States Army in 1998; and

Whereas, Sergeant Pionk enjoyed playing basketball, hunting, and working on cars, including a 1970 Chevy truck he restored when he was in high school, and was most remembered by friends, family, and fellow soldiers as a generous and kind soul, a role model, and a bold leader who commanded great respect both in combat and in his community; and

Whereas, Sergeant Pionk served with distinction in the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division out of Vilseck, Germany, where he was a platoon sergeant, and was in his second tour of duty in Iraq; and

Whereas, Sergeant Pionk's family and fellow citizens, including his parents, Duane and Sandy Pionk, his wife of nine years, Melanie Pionk, and his three children, Dillon, Ashley, and Brandon, are honored by his bravery and sacrifice, knowing that he died doing what he wanted to do: serve the nation and fight for freedom; and

Whereas, Sergeant Pionk demonstrated his valor by earning a Bronze Star during his first tour of duty for helping a fellow soldier who was injured; and

Whereas, Sergeant First Class Pionk embodied the Army core values of courage and leadership, was highly respected by his fellow soldiers for both of these traits, and will be sorely missed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature of the state of Wisconsin commemorates the remarkable life of Sergeant Matthew Pionk and extends its deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall transmit a copy of this joint resolution to his wife, Melanie Pionk, and his parents, Duane and Sandy Pionk.

Representative Michael D. Huebsch
Speaker of the Assembly

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate

Date

Robert J. Marchant
Senate Chief Clerk