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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 439 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY RAPP, HORNAMAN, GILLEN, PERRY, CAUSER, AUMENT, BAKER, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, BRADFORD, BROOKS, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, COX, CUTLER, DALEY, DELOZIER, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, ELLIS, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HALUSKA, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, JOSEPHS, KAUFFMAN, F. KELLER, M. K. KELLER, W. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK, MAHER, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, METCALFE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MULLERY, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAVENSTAHL, REED, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TAYLOR, THOMAS, TOEPEL, TOOHIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 5, 2011

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 5, 2011

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the life and service of Pennsylvania  
2 Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Kenneth VanGiesen and  
3 paying tribute to his sacrifice in the line of duty.

4 WHEREAS, Kenneth VanGiesen was born on August 3, 1980, in  
5 Kane, McKean County; and

6 WHEREAS, Kenneth VanGiesen graduated from Kane Area High  
7 School in 1999 and enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National  
8 Guard; and

9 WHEREAS, Kenneth VanGiesen was a Pennsylvania Army National  
10 Guard staff sergeant attached to the Kane National Guard Unit,  
11 Detachment 1, Company A, 128th Brigade Support Battalion of the

1 Pennsylvania Army National Guard; and

2 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen gave his life on July 18, 2011,  
3 near Bagram, Afghanistan, while serving with the 131st  
4 Transportation Company, 213th Area Support Group of the  
5 Pennsylvania Army National Guard; and

6 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen served his nation and this  
7 Commonwealth in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard for 12  
8 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen served four tours overseas, in  
10 Germany, twice in Iraq and in Afghanistan, logging 1,400  
11 mobilized days in overseas deployment, being 1 of only 16  
12 Pennsylvania Army National Guardsmen serving at that level of  
13 active duty; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen demonstrated deep fidelity to  
15 the United States and this Commonwealth, bravely facing the  
16 dangers of his military service and performing his duties with  
17 exemplary knowledge, ability and integrity; and

18 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen served with great distinction,  
19 earning two Army Commendation Medals, a Combat Action Badge, two  
20 Iraq Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal,  
21 a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Navy Unit Commendations;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen's last moments were spent  
24 serving the United States' mission in Afghanistan; and

25 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. VanGiesen is survived by his high school  
26 sweetheart, with whom he shared a home, Erin Sirianni; his  
27 parents, Susan and Thomas; his sister, Amie; his brother, Matt;  
28 his extended family and his beloved dog, Bandit; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize and honor the life and  
30 service of Pennsylvania Army National Guard Staff Sergeant

1 Kenneth VanGiesen and pay tribute to his sacrifice in the line  
2 of duty.