

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6027

A RESOLUTION in memory of Sheriff Matthew H. "Matt" Samuels.

WHEREAS, Matthew H. "Matt" Samuels, 42, sheriff of Greenwood County, was fatally wounded in the line of duty January 19 while serving two warrants at a rural house in northeast Greenwood County; and

WHEREAS, Samuels' career in law enforcement began as he worked part-time as a jailer in 1979 for his father, the late Charles Samuels, and sheriff of Greenwood County until 1986. He was awarded the Silver Medal of Valor in 1992 for his acts of heroism while saving the life of another person. Matt Samuels was elected sheriff in 2000 and reelected in 2004. A longtime resident of Eureka, he was a friendly and outgoing person who believed in moderation and communication instead of confrontation. He was very proud of the service of his family in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Matt Samuels was president of the local Kiwanis Club, a member of Masonic Lodge Fidelity No. 106, Midian Shrine and served as a district and county director of special olympics. At one time he set up a bicycle safety clinic for local children and made repairs as needed. He and his wife made a habit of checking on the safety of elderly women in the community. Known in the area as an avid hunter, he is remembered as a talented wrestler and football player at Eureka High School where he graduated in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Matt Samuels married Tamara Bechtle on April 23, 1983. They are the parents of two children, a daughter, Sharlee, 15, who is a sophomore at Eureka High School, and a son, Heath, 19, who attends Washburn University in Topeka; and

WHEREAS, Over 3,000 people gathered at the funeral services on January 23, 2005, at the Eureka High School to show their love and respect for Sheriff Samuels and his family. Over 1,000 of those in attendance were fellow law enforcement officers who came from over seven states to pay their respects to one of their own, fallen; and

WHEREAS, On the morning that Sheriff Samuels was shot and killed at a "meth lab" in Greenwood County, testimony was being heard from fellow law enforcement officers at the State Capitol in Topeka in support of Kansas Senate Bill 27. Senate Bill 27 is proposed legislation which would control the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, "meth" precursors; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 27 was passed by unanimous vote of the Senate and named "the Sheriff Matt Samuels Chemical Control Act": Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we acknowledge the death of a fine and compassionate lawman, devoted husband and father who made the ultimate sacrifice in line of duty.

House Resolution No. 6027 was sponsored by Representatives Knox and Mast.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

---

*Speaker of the House.*

---

*Chief Clerk of the House.*