

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1821

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 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: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate 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; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Mrs. Matthew H. Samuels, 1106 N. Oak Street, Eureka, KS 67045.

Senate Resolution No. 1821 was sponsored by Senators Peggy Palmer and Jim Barnett.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*