

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6038

A RESOLUTION in support of the patriot guard.

WHEREAS, The patriot guard is a diverse amalgamation of motorcycle riders from across the nation which has been formed to render respect for service members who have given their lives in the conflict for freedom in Iraq and other areas of the world. As requested by the deceased soldier's family, patriot guard riders will attend the funeral services. The mission of this newly formed organization is to show its sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families and communities and to shield mourning family members and friends of the deceased service member from interruptions by protesters protesting or picketing in a manner to communicate a message of hatred or intolerance at the funeral service. The activities of the patriot guard are not limited to service personnel killed in the current conflict in Iraq, and the organization will respond to attend funerals of other veterans; and

WHEREAS, The patriot guard was formed by three military veterans, Terry Houck, Carvel Logan and Gregg Hansen, who were outraged when they learned that mourners attending funerals of service personnel killed in Iraq were the subject of harassment by fellow Americans. Composed of veterans' motorcycle groups, motorcycle enthusiasts, Christian motorcycle groups and people who consider themselves patriots, the group provides a barrier at funerals to protect mourners from seeing and hearing the protesters if authorized by the family of the deceased; and

WHEREAS, The patriot guard was present at the memorial service for Clinton R. Upchurch in Garden City on January 18. Upchurch, a resident of Garden City and former deputy sheriff in the Finney County sheriff's office, was killed in Iraq while serving with the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, The patriot guard was present at the memorial service for Sgt. Jessie Davila in Dodge City on March 4, 2006. Davila, a resident of Greensburg, was killed in Iraq while serving with the Kansas Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, The initial funerals attended by the patriot guard were in Oklahoma and Kansas. The organization has become national in scope and is planning a national convention. Its web site, *www.patriotguard.org* provides current information regarding its activities; and

WHEREAS, The extent to which individuals may protrude into the affairs of others, particularly in the matter of funerals, has been considered by Kansas cities and counties and is a subject of a bill currently pending in this legislature. Certainly a balance as to the rights of individuals to protest on public property must be set against the dignity of grieving family members: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the body indicates its support for the activities of the patriot guard as it seeks to provide a balance of individual protest rights and those of grieving families.

House Resolution No. 6038 was sponsored by Ward Loyd, Pat George and Dennis McKinney.

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

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*