

## Senate Resolution 101 - Introduced

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY KLIMESH, ALONS, BENNETT, BISIGNANO, BLAKE,  
BOUSSELOT, CAMPBELL, COSTELLO, DAWSON, DICKEY, DONAHUE,  
DOTZLER, DREY, DRISCOLL, EVANS, GARRETT, GREEN,  
GRUENHAGEN, GUTH, HARDMAN, KNOX, KOELKER, KRAAYENBRINK,  
LOFGREN, McCLINTOCK, PETERSEN, PIKE, QUIRMBACH,  
REICHMAN, ROWLEY, ROZENBOOM, SALMON, SCHULTZ, SHIPLEY,  
SINCLAIR, SIRES, STAED, SWEENEY, TAYLOR, TOWNSEND,  
TRONE GARRIOTT, WAHLS, WARME, WEBSTER, WEINER,  
WESTRICH, WHITVER, WINCKLER, ZIMMER, and ZUMBACH

1 A Resolution honoring Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel  
2 Howard, Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, and  
3 their families.

4 WHEREAS, approximately 1,800 Iowa Army National  
5 Guard soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th  
6 Infantry Division, were deployed to the Middle East in  
7 May 2025 as part of a coalition fighting ISIS with up  
8 to 250 of these soldiers deployed in Syria; and

9 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and  
10 Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard, of the 1st  
11 Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat  
12 Team, 34th Infantry Division, were killed in action  
13 in an enemy attack on Saturday, December 13, 2025, in  
14 Palmyra, Syria, and three other members of the Iowa  
15 National Guard, whose names have not been released  
16 due to Department of Defense military medical privacy  
17 policies, were wounded in the attack; and

18 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard was  
19 inspired by his grandfather's service to join the Iowa  
20 National Guard; and

1 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar was  
2 inspired to serve his country at an early age; and

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard  
4 completed basic training and advanced individual  
5 training at Fort Benning in Georgia after graduating  
6 from Marshalltown High School in 2014, served his  
7 country for 11 years in the Iowa Army National Guard,  
8 and is remembered for his commitment to excellence,  
9 his humor, and his ability to bring out the best in  
10 others; and

11 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar  
12 enlisted in the United States Army upon graduating  
13 from Dowling Catholic High School in 2019, served his  
14 country for six years in the Iowa Army National Guard,  
15 including serving deployments in Kosovo and Kuwait  
16 before being deployed to Syria, and is remembered for  
17 his smile and as an exemplary person, a family man,  
18 and a source of pride for his parents, siblings, and  
19 extended family; and

20 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard  
21 is survived by his beloved wife, Arianna Howard;  
22 his father, Brian, and his father's wife, Andrea;  
23 his mother, Misty Bunn, and his mother's husband,  
24 Jeff; his brother, Staff Sergeant James Roelsgard;  
25 stepbrothers, Josh Bunn and his wife, Modestie, and  
26 Travis Bunn; as well as his grandparents, William  
27 Eugene and Pat Neville, Vicki Brindle, and Martin and  
28 Ruth Roelsgard; and

29 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar  
30 is survived by his parents, Hugo Torres and Isabel

1 Tovar; brothers, Samuel Torres and Daniel Torres;  
2 sister, Krystal Torres, and her children, Castiel and  
3 Christopher; paternal grandparents, Jose Torres and  
4 Rita Garcia; girlfriend, Yareli Duran; and numerous  
5 aunts, uncles, and cousins; and

6 WHEREAS, both were posthumously promoted to staff  
7 sergeant in recognition of their sacrifice and service,  
8 and are heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice and will  
9 forever be remembered as exemplary members of the Iowa  
10 National Guard; NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate pays  
12 respect to and honors the lives of and the ultimate  
13 sacrifice paid by staff sergeants William Nathaniel  
14 Howard and Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate recognizes  
16 the sacrifice of the three Iowa National Guard soldiers  
17 injured in the December 13 attack in Palmyra, Syria,  
18 and thanks them for their service in protecting  
19 freedom; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate authorizes  
21 and directs a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
22 families of staff sergeants Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar  
23 and William Nathaniel Howard in recognition of their  
24 service to their country and of the great sacrifices  
25 made by the families of Staff Sergeant William  
26 Nathaniel Howard and Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian  
27 Torres-Tovar.