

Senate Resolution 109

By: Senator Miller of the 49th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and supporting Purple Star Veterans and Families; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the sacrifices of the members of the United States armed forces, as well as those  
3 of their families and communities, continue to be given willingly and selflessly to protect the  
4 freedoms this country enjoys; and

5 WHEREAS, this sacrifice can result in loss of life and permanent physical injury as well as  
6 significant emotional, mental, and spiritual stress for many who serve; and

7 WHEREAS, according to a 2013 Department of Veterans Affairs report, every 65 minutes  
8 in the United States a United States veteran dies from suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, after their military service, veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq have  
10 a 75 percent higher rate of fatal motor vehicle accidents than civilians do, often thought to  
11 be linked to posttraumatic stress disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, an aversion or inability to ask for help is a significant barrier to care which  
13 prevents "at risk" military personnel and veterans from getting the help they need; and

14 WHEREAS, this nation's military is trained to accomplish missions under extreme stressors  
15 and circumstances; and

16 WHEREAS, self-reliance is embodied and encouraged while weakness can and does  
17 stigmatize those who seek help; and

18 WHEREAS, to remove the stigma of seeking help and to strengthen the transition safety net  
19 for veterans and their families, Purple Star Veterans and Families (PSVF) is dedicated to the  
20 Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration's long-term commitment to the

21 establishment of self-help and personal development based peer support and mentoring  
22 training; and

23 WHEREAS, this training will assist service members in their transition to civilian life prior  
24 to and following separation from military service; and

25 WHEREAS, equally important is the establishment of transition preparedness and peer  
26 support/advocacy programs for the immediate and extended families of service members and  
27 veterans; and

28 WHEREAS, mandatory, well-integrated self-help, pre-separation and post-separation  
29 training will further minimize the stigma of seeking help for "at risk" service members who  
30 are preparing for separation from military service; and

31 WHEREAS, each person must be automatically exposed to experiential and emersion based  
32 transition programs as part of their out-processing from service; and

33 WHEREAS, PSVF believes that just as basic training compresses the hearts and minds of  
34 service men and women to prepare them for military service, a corresponding and  
35 comprehensive pre-separation and post-separation training will better prepare military  
36 personnel for their reintegration back to family, education, and employment; and

37 WHEREAS, PSVF believes a long-term commitment to the research and development of a  
38 more comprehensive transition preparedness training for veterans and their immediate and  
39 extended family members prior to and after separation will dramatically reduce the incidence  
40 of suicide, accident fatalities, divorce, child abuse and neglect, alcoholism, drug addiction,  
41 incarceration, and homelessness among this country's military personnel and veterans; and

42 WHEREAS, standardized and readily available homecoming-preparedness resources must  
43 be developed for immediate and extended family members to strengthen the transition safety  
44 net before they welcome their veterans home.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
46 petition the United States Department of Defense to develop and implement a program of  
47 homecoming and transition-preparedness and peer mentoring training for all military  
48 personnel prior to and immediately following separation from military service, particularly  
49 for service members with combat and combat-related job specialties, and to develop and

50 implement a pre-separation and post-separation program of homecoming and  
51 transition-preparedness for the immediate and extended family members of military  
52 personnel who are preparing to leave the military; encourage the Georgia Department of  
53 Veterans Service to work with national and local veterans organizations, including Purple  
54 Star Veterans and Families, to develop effective transition strategies for returning service  
55 members; and commend Purple Star Veterans and Families for its work in supporting  
56 veterans and active duty personnel with the difficult transition home.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
58 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the  
59 United States.