

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6014

By Representative Loyd

3-8

9 A RESOLUTION in support of the patriot patrol riders.

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11 WHEREAS, The patriot patrol riders is a diverse amalgamation of
12 motorcycle riders from across the nation which has been formed to render
13 respect for service members who have given their lives in the conflict for
14 freedom in Iraq and other areas of the world. As requested by the de-
15 ceased soldier's family, patriot patrol riders will attend the funeral serv-
16 ices. The mission of this newly formed organization is to show its sincere
17 respect for our fallen heroes, their families and communities and to shield
18 mourning family members and friends of the deceased service member
19 from interruptions by protesters protesting or picketing in a manner to
20 communicate a message of hatred or intolerance at the funeral service.
21 The activities of the patriot patrol riders is not limited to service personnel
22 killed in the current conflict in Iraq, and the organization will respond to
23 attend funerals of other veterans; and

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

32 WHEREAS, The patriot patrol riders were present at the memorial
33 service for Clinton R. Upchurch in Garden City on January 18. Upchurch,
34 a resident of Garden City and former deputy sheriff in the Finney County
35 sheriff's officer, was killed in Iraq while serving with the United States
36 Army; and

37 WHEREAS, The initial funerals attended by the patriot patrol riders
38 were in Oklahoma and Kansas. The organization has become national in
39 scope and is planning a national convention. Its web site,
40 *www.patriotguard.org* provides current information regarding its activi-
41 ties; and

42 WHEREAS, The extent to which individuals may protrude into the
43 affairs of others, particularly in the matter of funerals, has been consid-

1 ered by Kansas cities and counties and is a subject of a bill currently
2 pending in this legislature. Certainly a balance as to the rights of individ-
3 uals to protest on public property must be set against the dignity of griev-
4 ing family members: Now, therefore,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kan-*
6 *sas:* That the body indicates its support for the activities of the patriot
7 patrol riders as it seeks to provide a balance of individual protest rights
8 and those of grieving families.