

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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guess I'd also like to say that I want to thank Robert Swanson (phonetic). He's a constituent of mine. He presented this legislation to me this summer, or an idea of the legislation. He's a member of the American Legion Post No. 1 in Omaha. I also want to thank all the folks that have, I guess, backed the idea of this legislation. There are a lot of them. I do have an interesting note I wanted to read into the record, and please bear with me. My brother is stationed at Fort Bragg. He wrote me an e-mail and he had heard about these proposals, or this proposal. He said, I'm proud, and the thing that I'm sure that you sought office to achieve. This hatermonger "reverend" and his family are trespassers, not protesters. They have no right to be there. These private funerals are not open forums. Just because the deceased was a service member does not make the funeral open to anyone who wishes to attend, especially those who simply want to disrupt the funeral and inflict even more pain on a grieving family. We just had four of our soldiers die from an IED attack in Afghanistan this week. One of the soldiers leaves behind a wife and three young boys, one three-year-old and two one-year-old twins. I will be talking to the wives of those soldiers today about their death benefits. My general cancelled a trip to be with them through the grieving process. Such conduct by groups such as this, and language, is so outrageous it can be legitimately considered an incitement of violence. Emotions are already raw at such funerals. This may go to the U.S. Supreme Court, but your law will be upheld. The court will clarify the legitimate boundaries between the rights and duties of private citizens. Your brother, Jim. James W. Friend, Lieutenant Colonel in U.S. Army, Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Special Forces Command, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Some may not think this is that important, or it's a really big-picture item, but copycats, other folks, could take a lesson from the folks that have already done things like this. We want to prevent that. With that, again I want to thank Senator McDonald. I'd be happy to answer any questions in regard to this legislation. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, a motion.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would offer AM2779. (Legislative Journal page 1074.)