

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATOR PERRY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses the condolences of the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature on the death of U.S. Naval Aviation Instructor Lieutenant Patrick L. Ruth.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the
3 family of U.S. Naval Aviation Instructor Patrick L. Ruth upon his death during a
4 training mission.

5 WHEREAS, Lt. Patrick Ruth was a native of Metairie, Louisiana, receiving his
6 diploma from Brother Martin High School where he was an outstanding athlete, competing
7 in football and track and field; and

8 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth soon began his college studies at Tulane University on a Naval
9 Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship, majoring in mathematics and graduating in
10 2008; and

11 WHEREAS, while attending Tulane, Lt. Ruth also met his future fiancée and the love
12 of his life, Jessica Lauren Fugitt; and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth received orders to report to the Aviation Preflight
14 Indoctrination in Pensacola, Florida, where all Naval Aviators are trained, and after
15 successfully completing API, reported to Training Squadron Twenty-Seven in Meridian,
16 Mississippi for Primary Flight Training in the T-34 and later to Training Squadron
17 Thirty-One; and

18 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth proudly earned his Naval Aviator wings in March of 2011, and

1 after more training was deployed to the Persian Gulf onboard the USS Harry S. Truman
2 Aircraft Carrier, where he bravely served his country in Operation Enduring Freedom from
3 June of 2013, to April of 2014, and was awarded "Top Hook" of the Air Wing in the E-2C
4 Hawkeye; and

5 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth flew as a part of the tactical air forces of the U.S. Navy,
6 performing his primary mission as part of the early warning defense of his Carrier Battle
7 Group, as well as air strike control, ocean surveillance, and search and rescue coordination;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, after his combat tour of duty Lt. Ruth was recognized by his
10 commanders for his outstanding combat flying skills and was assigned to serve as an
11 instructor pilot at Training Squadron Seven, teaching combat flying techniques in the T-45C
12 Goshawk at the Naval Air Station Meridian; and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was later assigned to Training Squadron VT-7 Eagles, where
14 he was honored to teach the Naval Aviators of the future the many tactics and skills he had
15 learned during his distinguished career; and

16 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was on a training mission Sunday, October 1, 2017, with
17 student naval aviator Lt. Junior Grade Wallace E. Burch when their Goshawk training jet
18 crashed in Tellico Plains, Tennessee; and

19 WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was recognized by his commanders and fellow officers as a
20 very dedicated naval aviator, and among his many decorations earned were two awards of
21 the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, for his sustained superior performance.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
23 does hereby extend its most sincere and profound condolences to the family of Lt. Ruth for
24 their immeasurable loss and also wish to recognize Lt. Ruth for his gallant service to his
25 country, both in combat and in the training of tomorrow's naval aviators.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
27 Lt. Ruth's parents David and Mary Anne Ruth and his fiancée Jessica.

