SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Marine Corps Sergeant Jeffrey L. Kirk.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Jeffrey L. Kirk in ground combat operations while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk was a native of Baton Rouge and was an honor graduate of McKinley High School's gifted program, showing particular interest in art and poetry; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk, despite his academic interests and achievements, decided while still in high school that he wanted to become a Marine when he completed his studies; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk, upon his entry into the United States Marine Corps, so impressed his superiors during boot camp training with his spirit, motivation and natural leadership skills that he was asked to join the elite 1st Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Team Company that was charged with carrying out missions and security operations worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk served with such distinction and skill that he was offered
an assignment teaching pistol instruction at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk was so affected by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States that he requested a transfer to a ground forces unit in order to lead Marines into combat against the enemies of his country; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk soon volunteered for duty in the Persian Gulf region where his country's war on terrorism was being waged and his training, skill, and expertise as a platoon sergeant could best be used; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk subsequently led Marines in the pivotal battle against terrorist forces in the enemy stronghold of Fallujah, distinguishing himself with bravery and uncommon valor in one of the major fights of Operation Iraqi Freedom and receiving serious gunshot wounds in the course of the house-clearing operations and hand-to-hand combat there; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk briefly returned to his family during his recuperation period, however, as soon as he was physically able he requested that he be allowed to rejoin his brothers in arms back inside the hotspot area known as the "Triangle of Death"; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk was soon back at the "tip of the spear" in offensive operations with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, knowing full well the tremendous danger he was in as he and his men valiantly faced ever increasing attacks by day and night; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk was just 24 years old on the Sunday, December 12, 2004, when he was killed in action, along with six of his fellow Marines, by a large, heavily-armed terrorist force in a fierce firefight in Al Anbar Province as the enemy tried unsuccessfully to prevent the first democratic elections in Iraq in decades.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express a profound sense of loss and heartfelt condolences to the family of United States Marine Corps Sergeant Jeffrey L. Kirk for his death in ground combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Kirk's wife, Carly, his brother, Benjamin, and his mother and father, Lisa and Peter
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Jeffrey L. Kirk.