

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Jeffrey L. Kirk.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Kirk served with such distinction and skill that he was offered

1 an assignment teaching pistol instruction at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School at
2 Quantico, Virginia; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
30 Sergeant Kirk's wife, Carly, his brother, Benjamin, and his mother and father, Lisa and Peter

1 Kirk.

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.