

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana upon the death of Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel of the United States Army
4 National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team.

5 WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and a most profound sorrow that the Senate
6 of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Heltzel in ground
7 combat operations while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel was a native of Indiana and began his military career
9 with the 10th Mountain Division at Ft. Drum, New York, later joining the United States
10 Army National Guard in Indiana and serving an 18-month tour of duty in Operation Iraqi
11 Freedom with that unit from late 2002 until early 2004; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel served with great distinction during his first tour in
13 Iraq before returning safely home to his family and friends back in Indiana; and

14 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel moved in March, 2004, to his wife, Christy's, native
15 Louisiana and transferred to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th
16 Brigade Combat Team where he received his orders for his second tour in the Iraqi Theater
17 of Operations in July, 2004; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel will be remembered for always placing his country's

1 needs, as well as those of his fellow soldiers ahead of his own, despite his own plans for his
2 future; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel was 39 years old when, on March 15, 2005, he was
4 part of a mounted patrol that came to the aid of a small, seven-man foot patrol under heavy
5 fire and fierce attack by a series of car bombs exploded by terrorist insurgents; and

6 WHEREAS, during the battle, Sergeant Heltzel went to the assistance of several
7 soldiers wounded in the attack, totally disregarding his own safety and administering first
8 aid and medical assistance to the wounded until he collapsed and died as a result of his own
9 wounds; and

10 WHEREAS, other soldiers in his unit have said Sergeant Heltzel conducted himself
11 in the highest military standards during the battle, exhibiting bravery and uncommon valor
12 as he fought enemy combatants and treated wounded comrades until succumbing to his
13 injuries; and

14 WHEREAS, those who served with Sergeant Heltzel knew him to be a true leader,
15 concerned with the safety and well-being of his men and a force for good fighting for the
16 rights of the Iraqi people; and

17 WHEREAS, Sergeant Heltzel symbolizes in the strongest terms possible that
18 freedom is never free and brave men such as he, will always be needed to ensure that tyrants,
19 dictators, and terrorists do not prevail in the eternal struggle between good and evil.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
21 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and heartfelt condolences to the family of
22 United States Army National Guard Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel for his death in combat in the
23 Iraqi Theater of Operations.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 family of United States Army Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel.

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. Army National Guard Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel.