CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of

Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Levi B. Kinchen upon his
deanth in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the
Senate has learned of the tragic death of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was a native of Albany and was a graduate of
Albany High School and known throughout the small, patriotic, southeastern Louisiana
community as a young man who felt it was his duty to leave his home to serve his country
in its war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen enlisted in the Army shortly after high school,
following in his older brother's footsteps of military service and determined to overcome his
natural fear of being in combat by doing that very thing and fighting the enemies of his
homeland; and

WHEREAS, while Specialist Kinchen understood the dangers associated with life
in the combat zone, his mother, Barbara Kinchen, said of her son "He was ready to go, that's
what he wanted to do, he knew the consequences," and had insisted on being baptized before
leaving for the war; and
WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was a member of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment based at Fort Polk when the unit was deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations with the mission of finding, fixing, and destroying terrorist elements conducting operations out of Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen dedicated himself to the accomplishment of his unit's mission, always placing the needs of his unit, his country, and his comrades before his own; and

WHEREAS, while Specialist Kinchen loved his family and friends and missed them dearly during his tour of duty in Southwest Asia, he also loved his country, displaying an unwavering devotion to this nation at a time when enemies around the world have sworn to harm America and extinguish the bright light of freedom that this nation carries in a dark, threatening, and troubled world; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was only 21 years old as he bravely confronted the daily emotional toll of seeing fellow soldiers wounded and killed and as he weathered the brutal, unrelenting heat and sand of the desert days and the long, cold, dark loneliness of his nights in a hostile land; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen, for reasons known only to God, never woke from one of those nights on August 9, 2003, leaving family, friends, and fellow soldiers only the wonderful memories of his love and dedication to his country; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen will forever be remembered for his sacrifice and as a reminder that freedom is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.
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 Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.