

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SMITH, THEUNISSEN AND ULLO

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 Robert L. duSang upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang was a native of Lafayette and a lifelong resident of Mandeville, graduating from Mandeville High School in 1998 where he was a member of the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Candidate program on its elite drill team; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang's family had a long history of military service and it was no surprise when he enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from high school, ultimately spending nearly six years on active duty and preparing to re-enlist when his life was cut short in a nighttime military vehicle accident on the dark, dusty, and dangerous road near Navstar, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang was 24 years old and a member of the 1st Howitzer Battalion of the 2nd Armored Division Cavalry Regiment on June 30, 2004, when he died serving his country in its war on terror, and while he was scheduled to return soon to his home base at Fort Polk, he vowed he was ready to stay in Iraq as long as it took to finish the job; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang had greatly distinguished himself during his Iraqi service with bravery and uncommon valor, conducting himself in an exemplary manner whether he was on mounted patrols, firing artillery, or manning checkpoints on the mean streets of nameless villages and towns; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang's determination to serve his country faithfully, even when his service in the Iraqi Theater of Operations was extended beyond the scheduled time of his tour; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang always placed his country's, his unit's and his fellow soldier's needs ahead of his own, he never forgot that his wife, Brandy, and their precious daughter, Kimberly, were patiently, yet anxiously, waiting at home in Mandeville for his safe return; and

WHEREAS, while the loss of Specialist duSang was almost more than his wife, family, and friends could endure, his ultimate sacrifice for his country made everyone who knew him proud of him and made many rally in support of the nation's armed services gallant efforts in the war on terror and the liberation of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Specialist duSang will be forever remembered by his family, friends, and fellow soldiers as a totally dedicated "soldier's soldier," and his sacrifice now serves as a reminder to all that freedom is never free and sometimes Americans may have to fight to protect the freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of 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 Robert L. duSang.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the wife, Brandy, the mother, Betty Jane Jennings, and the father, Donald duSang, of Specialist Robert L. duSang.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE