

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY SENATORS CRAVINS, ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAU, N. GAUTREAU, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MARIONNEAUX, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, 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 Marine Corps Lance Corporal Willie P. Celestine Jr., upon his death in ground combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Willie Celestine, Jr., was a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, growing up there, graduating in 2004 from Acadiana High School, and attending and being an active parishioner of St. Anthony Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Celestine was a good athlete, playing baseball, basketball, and football, and a gregarious individual who loved to make people laugh, possessing a special talent for winning people over with an at-time mischievous nature; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Celestine made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps because of his deeply-held feelings of love for his country and that joining the uniformed armed services would be the best way for him to serve his homeland and care for his family; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Celestine joined the corps on January 26, 2005, was assigned as a radio operator to the Camp Lejeune-based Company A, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, 2nd Marine Division, distinguished himself throughout an eight-month tour of duty in Iraq in late 2005 and early 2006, and had recently returned for a second tour; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Celestine, at the young age of twenty-two was already a veteran of many patrols and contacts with the enemy and on April 26, 2007, was returning with his unit to Fallujah from a four-day mission when the Humvee in which they were riding was struck by a missile, with Corporal Celestine sustaining mortal head injuries; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Willie P. Celestine, Jr., brought great honor on himself, his family, his community, his state, his country, and the United States Marine Corps with his courageous conduct in combat and sacrifice in the name of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Celestine is survived by his wife, Aporil, two-year old daughter, Nevaeh, his mother Gertrude Celestine, and his father, Willie Celestine, Sr.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest condolences to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Willie P. Celestine, Jr., for his sacrifice in the nation's War on Terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Lance Corporal Willie P. Celestine Jr.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE