

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, 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 Army Private Mark William Graham upon his death from wounds suffered in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Army Private Mark William Graham was a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, and a graduate of St. Thomas More High School, where he excelled in athletics and was named to the All-State football squad; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham was a beloved husband, son, brother, uncle, nephew, grandson, son-in-law, and true friend to the many people whose lives he touched during his short, precious time here; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham felt the strong call of his country and answered that call by entering the uniformed services of the United States, training himself into warrior status and traveling to a faraway place to battle an enemy intent on harming America and the freedom it represents; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham loved his family dearly and did not leave them on a whim or a fancy, but rather with the knowledge that he was now a part of something historically significant and vital to maintaining a way of life that so many Americans now enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham joined soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Scouts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the legendary 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and soon began participating in combat patrols and road clearing missions; and

WHEREAS, 22-year-old Private Graham was on such a patrol March 2, 2007, when he and his unit were engaged by a heavily armed enemy element northwest of the capitol city of Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham sustained terrible wounds during the action which also took the lives of two of his fellow soldiers and an indigenous soldier serving as an interpreter; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham displayed incredible courage, toughness, and determination as he fought to survive his grievous injuries with the superb assistance of battlefield medics and doctors in Baghdad, and later with the highly trained medical staff at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and the expert staff at Brook Army Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Private Graham, despite the state of the art treatment and the unrelenting efforts of dedicated medical personnel, ultimately succumbed to his mortal wounds on March 7, 2007; and

WHEREAS, while the Purple Heart Medal, military honors, and a crisply folded American flag provide a small comfort to Private Graham's family, they remained filled with pride to have known and loved a man who possessed such character, courage, and love of country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere condolences to the family of United States Army Private Mark William Graham for their profound sacrifice of a loved one in this grateful nation's War on Terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the family of United States Army Private Mark William Graham.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE