

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

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 Sergeant First Class Marcus V. Muralles upon his death in combat operations during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Marcus V. Muralles was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 5, 1971, and ultimately raised and schooled in Shelbyville, Indiana, before he began a distinguished military career; and

WHEREAS, after Sergeant First Class Muralles completed his Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, he continued his introduction into the Army's elite forces by successfully completing medic training, Airborne School and Ranger School, going on to complete his initial enlistment obligation as a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and was subsequently assigned to the Army's inactive ready reserve; and

WHEREAS, after some time as a civilian, Sergeant First Class Muralles could no longer deny his love of military service to his country in the elite forces, so he returned to active duty as an infantryman at Ft. Benning with a later reclassification back to his preferred role as a medic; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Muralles soon returned to his old unit, Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers, where he played a vital role as medical administrator, platoon medic, and company senior medic before his reassignment to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) as an aerial flight medic; and

WHEREAS, incredibly, Sergeant First Class Muralles would ultimately serve two tours of duty in Iraq and three in Afghanistan participating in numerous missions involving great danger and personal risk with the Special Operations Forces; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2005, Sergeant First Class Muralles was preparing to return home in time for his daughter's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday when word came of a badly needed rescue mission that was short a medic because the regular medic had suffered a leg injury; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Muralles was soon on a MH-47 helicopter streaking across Kumar Province with the Special Operations Night Stalkers crew and eight Navy Seals when the aircraft began taking heavy enemy ground fire and crashed as a result, mortally wounding all sixteen elite warriors aboard; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Muralles was posthumously awarded several decorations for his heroic actions during the deadly mission, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with "V" device for combat valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat, and the Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Muralles' other military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation with "V" device for combat valor, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Ranger Tab, the highly coveted Combat Medical Badge, the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Aviation Badge, the expert Infantry Badge, and the Master Parachutist Badge with two Bronze Stars denoting combat Jumps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a grateful Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere condolences to his wife, Diana, and children Anna and Dominic, and to the rest of the family of United States Army Sergeant First Class Marcus V. Muralles for his ultimate sacrifice and their profound and immeasurable loss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Sergeant First Class Marcus V. Muralles.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE