

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

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 Marine Corps Lance Corporal Donald E. Champlin upon his death in ground combat action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Donald E. Champlin was a native of Natchitoches, Louisiana, growing up there and completing his high school requirements for graduation and entry into college; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin enrolled in Louisiana State University where he obtained a medical technology degree from the university's Health Sciences Center's School of Allied Health Professions; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin loved the lab work associated with his new profession; however, his father, Danny, a retired Chief Warrant Officer, said his son felt that there was something missing, so he took a page out of his father's life and joined the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin adapted quickly to the spartan conditions of Marine boot camp, discovering qualities about himself that were previously unknown and embracing a newfound pride and self confidence that only Marines can ever really understand; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin was assigned after his training to the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin and the Marines of his unit soon received orders for their deployment to the Iraqi Theater of Operations, and like Marines before them, they began readying themselves emotionally for the coming separation from family, loved ones, and friends and preparing physically for the incredible efforts that would be needed to accomplish their combat mission; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin was twenty-eight years old as he and fellow Marines conducted dismounted patrols August 27, 2006, to clear terrorist forces from suspected enemy locations in the lawless region west of Baghdad in Al Anbar Province, the site of recent heavy fighting; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin and his unit were subsequently engaged by heavily-armed enemy elements in a fierce firefight in which he was severely wounded by a high explosive device; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where, despite his heroic efforts and those of the medical personnel there, he succumbed to his mortal wounds on August 28, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin leaves a son, two and one-half year old Mekhiah, and his parents, Danny and Joann, and a sister and her husband, Brook and Dr. Forrest Wall, to face a future without a father, a son, and a brother; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Champlin, according to his wishes, was laid to rest in North Carolina where the rest of his Marines and their proud traditions remain strong.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Donald E. Champlin for their immeasurable loss and his ultimate sacrifice in this nation's War on Terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Donald E. Champlin.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE