

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

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 Staff Sergeant Jacob G. McMillan upon his death in ground combat in Iraq.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jacob G. McMillan was a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, where he grew to maturity and distinguished himself in high school athletics as a wrestler before he graduated in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan's physical prowess was a great asset and served him well when he enlisted in the United States Army and began the challenging training that would lead him to an elite parachute unit; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan was highly successful in adapting to the spartan airborne regime, with his lean, well-muscled body, his mental toughness and quickness, and his dedication and determination to duty; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan's military service led him to assignment to the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based in Port Richardson, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan would serve a four-month tour of duty in Afghanistan before he and his fellow paratroopers learned of their deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan and the soldiers of his unit, like others before them who had headed for combat, steeled themselves for the coming absence and separation from family and readied themselves for the challenges that lay ahead if they were to accomplish their mission; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan knew his airborne unit would be called on to serve as the tip of the spear in the operations that would help stabilize Iraq's fragile democracy and eliminate terrorist elements; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan was twenty-five years old when he and his troops began conducting raids on suspected enemy locations December 20, 2006, in and around Baghdad, when they were engaged by a large, heavily-armed enemy element using deadly improvised explosive devices and withering small arms fire; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant McMillan was mortally wounded during the ferocious firefight that followed and where he and his soldiers gave as well as they got during the heat, dust, and chaos of the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Staff Sergeant McMillan was nearly unbearable for his fiancée, Allegra Geffert, and his parents, Gerald and Kathryn McMillan; however their pride in his brave service helped soothe their broken hearts, and their knowledge of his love of his country helped make some sense of a tragic event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of United States Army Staff Sergeant Jacob G. McMillan for his sacrifice in the military service of this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Jacob G. McMillan and his fiancée.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE