

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

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 John Edward Hale upon his death in ground combat operations in Iraq.

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal John Edward Hale was a native of the Phillipines and was later rescued from an orphanage and adopted by his American parents who raised him in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he was a 2005 graduate of Huntington High School; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale possessed superb physical abilities which he used to excel in football where he was named the co-captain of the Raiders' football team as well as serving as a commander in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale also honed his extensive outdoor skills through activities such as Police Explorers and Boy Scouts and his many hunting and fishing trips; and

WHEREAS, as a boy, Lance Corporal Hale listened to his father recount his experiences of Navy service and knew then that he too would serve his country in uniform someday, only he was determined to be a Marine; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Lance Corporal Hale began his journey to becoming a Marine by enlisting in the Corps and rising to the challenge of the toughest basic combat training in the world by using his tremendous athletic prowess and outstanding leadership traits and subsequently succeeding in attaining his lifelong dream of becoming a leatherneck; and

WHEREAS, after his training was complete, Lance Corporal Hale was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale and the Marines in his unit would soon learn of their deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and as many American fighting forces have done before them, they began the preparations for the hardship combat tour by saying goodbye to loved ones and readying themselves for the difficult mission ahead; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale soon found himself with his unit in Al Anbar Province west of Baghdad in one of the most violent, hostile areas of the region, with large numbers of enemy forces and heavy fighting; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale was a member of a Marine patrol conducting searches October 6, 2006, when they were engaged by heavily-armed enemy elements and during the following firefight, the twenty year old was mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, those who knew Lance Corporal Hale all agree that he wanted nothing more than to come home safely but also say he felt strongly that he was protecting his fellow Americans by fighting in Iraq and helping preserve all of the freedoms his countrymen now enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hale represents all that is good in an American fighting man and will be forever remembered for his courage, dedication, and loyalty to a country that opened its arms to him and loved him without condition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal John Edward Hale for their profound loss and his total sacrifice in this nation's War Against Terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal John Edward Hale.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE