

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

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 Dustin DeCol upon his death in the service of his country.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Dustin DeCol was a native of Houma, Louisiana, growing to manhood there and graduating from Ellender Memorial High School in 2003 after meeting the girl he would ultimately marry; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol would enlist in the United States Army soon after his graduation, realizing a dream he had held since he was a small boy when he would tell everyone he would be a soldier someday; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his basic and advanced training, Sergeant DeCol would be stationed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kansas, taking his role as a combat engineer with the fabled unit; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol would soon receive his orders for his deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom where he would distinguish himself with his brave service as he disabled enemy explosives and paved the way for his infantry comrades to move forward and engage the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol saw extensive combat during that initial tour in Iraq as he gained the hard-learned lessons of the battlefield and sharpened his leadership skills that would serve him well later; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol returned home with a new respect for life and a resolve that he would not let the things he held precious slip away from him, so he asked Regina, his high school sweetheart, to marry him and she accepted; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol and Regina were married Christmas day 2004, during a rare snowfall in south Louisiana and amidst the twinkling holiday lights of the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol would soon receive his orders for a second tour of Iraq and a return to the uncertainty of day-to-day combat operations in an increasingly dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol displayed his extensive military skills and training in the Iraqi Theater of Operations and returned home safely to his family, friends, and loved ones once more; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol soon learned that he was about to undertake his biggest challenge ever, that of a new father, and he was deeply happy at the thought of the coming birth of his child; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol, despite his happiness with everything in his life, would soon be facing a new and fearful enemy, a rare and little known type of kidney cancer called renal-cell carcinoma; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol would enter Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he would spend more than two months being treated for his illness; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol fought courageously for his life during his stay at the hospital, and the medical professionals struggled furiously to control the disease that wracked his body; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant DeCol returned home to Houma after several major surgeries at the famed military hospital, which failed to stop the illness or place it into remission or control and he succumbed to its effects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest condolences to the family of United States Army Sergeant Dustin DeCol for their profound loss and Sergeant Decol's service and sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Sergeant Dustin DeCol.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE