

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

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 most sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Richard L. Brown upon his death in the uniformed service of his country.

WHEREAS, Specialist Richard L. Brown was a native of Kansas, growing up there and later relocating to Stonewall, Louisiana, which was his home of record; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown would enlist in the armed forces, fulfilling a dream he had for several years of serving his country in uniform and helping protect it from those who would do it harm; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown excelled during his Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, deciding that he would pursue aviation as his primary skill area; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown trained hard and learned the special skills he would need in his position as a crew member and mechanic for the UH-60 Blackhawk, the twin turbine workhorse of military rotary aircraft for the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown would subsequently be assigned to the United States Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, a storied unit that has served this nation with steadfast and loyal duty since it was raised in 1917 to fight in World War I and later in World War II, Vietnam, and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown was a member of the Aviation Brigade of the Division, and was a member of the forces that were deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown served with distinction and honor as he worked to help the unit fulfill its mission in Iraq from March 2003 to March 2004, when he returned to his home base of Ft. Hood, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Brown was twenty-nine years old when he and six other 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division soldiers were tasked with a one-day mission on December 1, 2004, that would take them to Texarkana, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the destination of the Blackhawk carrying Specialist Brown and his comrades was the Red River Army Depot in northeast Texas and weather was good upon departure from Ft. Hood but visibility declined drastically during the flight and the crew was forced to fly using instruments only; and

WHEREAS, bad weather had previously knocked out the signal lights from a television tower days before the flight and the Blackhawk crew was unable to see the structure and struck it, killing all personnel aboard; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Specialist Brown and his fellow soldiers brought mourning from throughout the military and especially from those who knew them and loved them at their home post; and

WHEREAS, the freedoms and liberties that Specialist Brown had served and fought to protect were recognized in ceremonies honoring him and his fallen comrades, and all were reminded once more that freedom is never free and must be preserved by the blood, sweat, and tears of its armed forces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and most profound condolences to the family of United States Army Specialist Richard L. Brown for their immeasurable loss and the sacrifice of Specialist Brown while in the service of his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Specialist Richard L. Brown.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE