

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

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 Specialist Johnathan Brian Chism upon his death in ground combat operations in this nation's War on Terror.

WHEREAS, Specialist Johnathan Brian Chism called Prairieville, Louisiana, United States of America, his home, and made no secret of his love for his country and the freedoms and opportunities that it offered to all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism exemplified the All-American young man and all of the best America represents as he excelled during his youth as a Boy Scout and expanded his exceptional athletic abilities and skills later on as he mastered skydiving and rock climbing; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism, like so many before him throughout our history, chose to become a part of his country's armed forces and stand and fight in support of its mission of stopping a mortal enemy; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism enlisted in the United States Army and put his athletic assets to good use as he successfully met the demanding mental and physical challenges of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism then honed his considerable combat skills through more specialized training and joined ranks with the elite soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based in Ft. Richardson, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism and his fellow Airborne soldiers were subsequently deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations and found themselves in one of the deadliest spots in the combat zone, the infamous Triangle of Death, where enemy forces operated in great strength; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism was twenty-two years of age when he and soldiers from his unit were conducting a dismounted patrol on January 20, 2007, in an area where enemy activity had been reported when they were engaged by a heavily-armed and numerically superior enemy force; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism and three of his brothers in arms were mortally wounded as a result of the encounter, and as a result, families from Verdon, Nebraska, Cortland, New York, Trafford, Alabama, and Prairieville, Louisiana, all mourned the inconsolable loss of sons, brothers, and fathers, all fallen in the name of freedom, liberty, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Chism will remain forever young in the memory of those who knew and loved him, and he now joins the noble ranks of those who have served their fellow Americans and given everything they have had and made the ultimate and final sacrifice for this nation and all it stands for.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere and profound condolences to the family of United States Army Specialist Johnathan Brian Chism for their immeasurable loss and his total sacrifice 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 Johnathan Brian Chism.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE