

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATORS LAFLEUR, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

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 Joseph A. Richard III, upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard was a native of Grand Prairie, Louisiana, a 1999 graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Ville Platte and, later, a student of public relations at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard was a person of strong faith and very active in his involvement with his church and community, serving first as an altar server and Altar Service Coordinator at St. Peter The Martyr Roman Catholic Church in Grand Prairie and later as a parishioner of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in DeRidder; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard had always held a special love of his country and in January, 2003, enlisted in the U.S. Army in order to serve in America's armed forces and be a part of the struggle against world terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard successfully completed the tough basic combat training and advanced individual training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and was assigned to the 588 Engineer Battalion of the legendary 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, where he sharpened his skills that he knew he would need when he and his unit were deployed and sent into combat; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard would continue the rigorous combat training he needed by successfully completing the Warrior Leader Course and the Force XXI Battle Command certification; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard would serve in the Iraqi Theater with Company E, 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment with distinction, courage and leadership abilities that resulted in his promotions through the enlisted ranks and distinguished him as a soldier who could be counted on in tough circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard would later be reassigned to the 4th Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the elite 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, a storied combat unit that he would deploy with in 2007 to Iraq for his third tour in the dangerous, southwest Asian conflict; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard was twenty-seven years old when he and his men received orders April 14, 2008, for a mission through the mean and dusty streets of Baghdad where enemy forces operated daily; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard and his unit were engaged by terrorist elements who used a roadside explosive device to strike his vehicle and inflict mortal wounds to the battle-hardened, non-commissioned officer; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Richard had earned numerous decorations for his bravery and dedication in combat, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Over Seas Service Ribbon for multiple combat tours, the Non-Commissioned Officer Proficiency Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the highly respected Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, despite Sergeant Richard's heavy combat experience and personal toughness, he was affectionately known by family, friends and fellow soldiers as "Sweet Joe" for his mild, considerate demeanor and his personal kindness toward others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathy and most sincere condolences to the family of Sergeant Joseph A. Richard III, for his gallant service and extraordinary sacrifice for his

country in its fight for liberty and against those forces who would harm this nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Richard's beloved wife, Monique, and his parents, Elaine and Joseph A. Richard, Jr.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE