

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, 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 National Guard Sergeant First Class John Michael Hennen upon his death in combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class John Michael Hennen was a native of Vinton, Louisiana, and graduated from Vinton High School in 1999, where he was part of the first group of students allowed to attend United States Army Boot Camp between his junior and senior years as he prepared for his future military service; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen would enter the armed forces after graduation and begin his military career where he would use his dedication, discipline, and leadership skills to rise through the enlisted ranks and become a senior non-commissioned officer; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen was a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, based at Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he served with distinction and accompanied his unit when they received deployment orders to the Iraqi Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen and the soldiers of the 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment served bravely and honorably in Operation Iraqi Freedom and accomplished their mission of battling enemy forces who were trying to interrupt order and stability in the war-torn country; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen and his unit returned home from southwest Asia after their tour to resume their lives in the country for which they had valiantly fought in the War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen and his troops trained hard in order to keep the lessons they had learned while in combat sharp in their minds and almost second nature when performed; and

WHEREAS, the tough training that Sergeant First Class Hennen and his unit endured would soon become invaluable when they received orders deploying them to Afghanistan for a second combat tour; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen believed strongly in the military service he was performing for his country, knowing that his son, four-year-old John Michael Hennen, II would grow up in the freedom and safety of America; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Hennen was twenty-six years old when he and a dozen other soldiers, who were handpicked for a special mission in Panjway, Afghanistan, on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, were engaged by enemy forces and the vehicle in which he was traveling was struck by an improvised explosive device, mortally wounding the veteran combat infantryman; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Sergeant First Class Hennen was immeasurable to his family and friends, but their pride in his courageous service tempered the sadness they felt and the large community tribute to the fallen hero was a real source of comfort during the full military honors funeral services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant First Class John Michael Hennen for their loss and for his service and sacrifice for his country in Operation Enduring Freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Sergeant First Class John Michael Hennen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE