

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

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 Specialist Charles Leonard, Jr., upon his death in combat in Iraq.

WHEREAS, United States Army Specialist Charles Leonard, Jr., was a native of West Monroe, Louisiana, where he grew up and received his education; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard was filled with a deep love for his country and the freedoms and rights he enjoyed and felt that he might best show his devotion to it by serving in its armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard enlisted in the United States Army where he volunteered for and trained relentlessly in the particularly tough role of a combat infantryman; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the legendary 1st Cavalry Division; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard accompanied his unit to Operation Iraqi Freedom when it was deployed to southwest Asia to combat terrorist forces operating in the Baghdad area; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard and the men of his unit were given the risky mission of restoring order in the city of Baghdad and the surrounding region and returning stability to the troubled, war-torn countryside; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard was part of a mounted patrol looking for insurgent forces reported to be operating in Baghdad on August 5, 2007, when he and his fellow soldiers were engaged by the enemy and the vehicle in which he was traveling was struck by heavy fire; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Leonard was mortally wounded by a rocket propelled grenade during the encounter as he bravely battled the opposing forces in the furious firefight that followed; and

WHEREAS, while Specialist Leonard's heroic service and immense sacrifice for his country will never be forgotten, his loss will also forever remain with his beloved wife, Katrina, and his daughter, Hallie, who now must go on without the benefit of a loving husband and father.

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 Specialist Charles Leonard, Jr., for his courage under fire, his dedication to his fellow soldiers, and his determination to accomplish his mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to United States Army Specialist Charles Leonard's wife, Katrina, and his mother, Sharon.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE