

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 77

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 condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Jarred S. Fontenot upon his death in combat in Iraq.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jarred S. Fontenot was a native of and grew up in Port Barre, Louisiana, where he and his sister were raised by their grandparents after their parents died when the children were very young; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot came from a family with a long military tradition where his grandfather, great uncles, and brother-in-law all served or are serving in the armed forces and have always been an inspiration to Staff Sergeant Fontenot and helped him decide at an early age that he too wanted to serve; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot was a police officer in his hometown before entering the United States Army on Christmas Day of 1993, when he began the career that he had aspired to since he was a small boy; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, located at Fort Carson, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot had served several overseas tours, including Korea and Iraq and was widely respected as a combat leader and known as a soldier who could be counted on in tough situations; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot and his unit would be deployed back to the Iraqi Theater of Operations for a second tour as part of an offensive operation aimed at freeing key parts of the war-ravaged country from the control of terrorist forces intent on wrecking havoc on the new democracy; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot and his troops were on patrol October 18, 2007, on the mean streets of Baghdad, looking for signs of enemy insurgents reported to be operating in the area, when they were engaged by those hostile elements in a fierce and savage firefight in which the battle proven noncommissioned officer was mortally wounded as he heroically fought a determined adversary during close combat; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Fontenot will never be forgotten by those who served beside him in combat, but his loss will be forever felt by those he loved and who loved him, especially his wife, Dana, and his four children, Cameron, Logan, Mason, and Macy, at the special moments for years to come when the presence of a husband and father is so greatly needed; and

WHEREAS those who fought side by side with Staff Sergeant Fontenot admit that the best army in the world is no longer as good as it was when the south Louisiana man, known for his coolness under fire, was a part of it.

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 Staff Sergeant Jarred S. Fontenot from a grateful state and nation for his brave service, exemplary actions in ground combat, and extraordinary sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Jarred S. Fontenot.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE