

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

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 Staff Sergeant Timothy Cole, Jr., upon his death in combat in Iraq.

WHEREAS, while United States Army Staff Sergeant Timothy Cole, Jr., was a native of Alexandria, Louisiana, he grew up in Oakdale and attended Oakdale High School where his extensive athletic abilities allowed him to play both baseball and football with great success; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole had such a deep love for his country that he decided to follow in his father's footsteps of serving his country in the military and after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole thrived in the Spartan conditions of Marine Corps life, training hard, using his physical prowess and becoming a Marine who could be counted on in clutch situations; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole and his fellow leathernecks were deployed to and completed a tour of Afghanistan, where he sharpened his combat skills, polished his leadership abilities, and earned great respect from the Marines he served with; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole's enlistment in the Marine Corps would end in 2001, but he soon joined the United States Army and became widely known as a tough and proven combat leader and was considered by many as a true example of what a great noncommissioned officer should be; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole was drawn to becoming a member of an elite unit and he achieved his goal when he was assigned to the famous 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where his job was that of a Cavalry Scout and his mission was

to find, fix, and destroy the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole and the troops of the 6th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, would be deployed to Iraq, twice, where they would serve courageously as they battled terrorist forces on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole was in his second tour of duty in the Iraqi Theater of Operations, serving as a team leader of his division's airborne reconnaissance squadron, when he and his men were engaged in heavy, close quarters fighting with a large enemy element, and with no regard for his own personal safety, he raced across a bullet-swept street and carried two, badly wounded comrades to safety; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole, already a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in another firefight, was now awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V-Device for combat valor in his dangerous and daring rescue of his fellow parachutists, and now there is a review of his brave deeds being conducted in order to upgrade his gallantry to heroism deserving of the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole was part of a foot patrol June 6, 2007, in the tiny town of As Sadah, thirty miles outside Baghdad, when he and his troops came under attack and the tough, twenty-eight year-old, war-hardened infantryman, was mortally wounded but still able to get himself and his men safely extracted by helicopter; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Cole's actions in regular, heavy combat will never be forgotten by any who served with him, his wife, Lindsey, daughters Alexis, Adriann, and Laura, and his son, Kross, will forever miss the tenderness, love, and care that the battle-scarred soldier gave them.

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 Staff Sergeant Timothy B. Cole, Jr., for his heroic service and the great individual sacrifice he made on behalf of his country in its War on Terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Timothy B. Cole, Jr., from a grateful state and nation.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE