

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

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 Marisol Heredia upon her death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, United States Army Specialist Marisol Heredia was a native of El Monte, California, growing up in modest conditions, studying the French language and culture with great passion and dedication and graduating from Mountain View High School in 2005, with an impressive 3.5 grade point average and six months ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia was a big fan of her hometown basketball team, the Los Angeles Lakers, and enthusiastically cheered them on whenever they played and faithfully followed them throughout their seasons; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia had plans for her future to follow her older sister, Claudia, into the military after high school, despite the concerns of her family, and in July, 2005, she enlisted in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia successfully completed the grueling basic combat training of the Army and was assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the legendary 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia continued the intense training and preparation for the combat tour of duty she and her fellow soldiers would soon face when they would be deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia would serve with courage and distinction as she braved the daily dangers of military life in Baghdad and accomplished her mission of keeping her fellow soldiers supplied with the materials needed to fight a deadly and determined enemy; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia would realize a lifelong dream in January, 2007, when she was able to take a furlough, travel to Paris, and spend three wonderful weeks with her older sister, Claudia, also in the Army and stationed in Germany; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia would visit the Louvre and other famous French sites, and witness the culture she so enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia also developed an appreciation for Iraq, its people, history and architecture, and marveled at the palaces of the former dictator, Saddam Hussein; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia was performing her duties during the course of her mission, July 18, 2007, when she was terribly injured in an accident while refueling the generators that kept her unit operating; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia, always a determined fighter, would return to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio and battle the effects that her burns caused with the day and night comfort and care of her sister, Claudia, who had been recently discharged from the Army; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Heredia fought valiantly for her life, overcoming a potentially fatal bout with pneumonia, but ultimately succumbing to a massive infection that took her life on September 7, 2007.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and most sincere condolences to the family of United States Army Specialist Marisol Heredia for their terrible loss and recognizes the extraordinary service and incredible sacrifice that she gave to her country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Specialist Marisol Heredia.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE