

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 103

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 Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas upon his death in an aircraft crash in Southern Germany.

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas was from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but had always had a dream of serving his country in its armed forces as an aviator; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas began to realize his dream as he entered the United States Army and trained hard to sharpen all the skills that would be necessary to earn the wings he would need to fly; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas did earn those wings and did begin his career as a pilot, flying rotary wing aircraft and specializing in the awesome AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas would be assigned to the legendary 1st Armored Division which was affectionately known as "Old Ironsides" and he would be stationed in Illesheim, Germany, where he would participate in live fire training exercises; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas was grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the state-of-the-art, annual gunnery training exercises in the Grafenwoehr Training Area; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas was a member of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade of the 1st Armored Division when he received orders for a routine, live fire, night training mission; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas was thirty-one years of age when he and his pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Timothy R. Breneman, thirty-six, of Daytona Beach, Florida, began their mission on June, 19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas would serve as co-pilot and gunner during the sortie, sharpening up his skills in night flying and gaining more expertise in the critical ability of the crew to engage and destroy enemy targets with the ship's arsenal of weapons; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas and Chief Warrant Officer Breneman were focused and involved in the complex training mission when something went wrong and their helicopter went down; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas and the pilot received mortal injuries in the incident and the cause of the crash was being investigated in the aftermath as the families attended services for the two lost pilots.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to the family of United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas for their immeasurable loss of their son and the service and great sacrifice he made for his country as he bravely performed his duties and sought to protect the nation he so loved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE