

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Air Force Captain Cartize B. Durham.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana to the family of United States Air Force Captain Cartize B. Durham upon
4 his death while on active duty in an accidental helicopter crash in Italy.

5 WHEREAS, Air Force Captain Cartize B. Durham was a native of Bossier City,
6 Louisiana, and a 1995 graduate of Airline High School, where he used his considerable
7 athletic talents and abilities to play for the school's football team and also participate in the
8 school's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program; and

9 WHEREAS, he followed his successful high school studies with the realization of
10 his lifelong dream of serving his country in the armed forces with his enlistment in the
11 United State Army where he served with great honor and distinction; and

12 WHEREAS, when Captain Durham left the Army upon the end of his three-year
13 enlistment, he returned to his beloved Louisiana home and entered Louisiana Tech
14 University where he successfully continued his academic pursuits and ultimately received
15 his undergraduate degree; and

16 WHEREAS, armed with college credentials, he was ready to use his newly acquired
17 skills and talents, but his deep desire to also serve his country in its military led to his reentry
18 into the armed forces, this time as an officer in the United States Air Force; and

1 WHEREAS, Captain Durham would serve bravely during his deployment to the Iraqi
2 theater of operations where he used his considerable experience as a former enlisted Army
3 soldier to see to the needs and welfare of his men as they fought to get men, materials and
4 equipment, as well as close air support, to American forces engaged with terrorist elements
5 around the huge Balad Air Base north of Baghdad; and

6 WHEREAS, he would complete his combat tour and accomplish his mission with
7 great success and distinction before he would receive his orders to proceed to Aviano Air
8 Base in northern Italy where he would become a member of the elite 31st Fighter Wing and
9 serve as the materials management flight commander for the unit's Logistics Readiness
10 Squadron; and

11 WHEREAS, Captain Durham was aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter
12 November 8, 2007, as a member of a training mission when the aircraft suddenly plummeted
13 to the ground on the banks of the Plave River and was mortally injured along with five other
14 servicemen aboard; and

15 WHEREAS, Captain Durham was greatly missed by the forces he led, commanded
16 and mentored, but his loss was immeasurable to his wife, Shumeka, and his two young sons,
17 Caleb and Christian, who now must go on without the husband and father who was always
18 at their side.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby extend its most sincere and profound condolences to the family of United States
21 Air Force Captain Cartize B. Durham on his death while on active duty in the uniform and
22 in the service of the nation he loved so deeply.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 family of Air Force Captain Cartize B. Durham.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Marionneaux

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