

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Army Private First Class Bryan M. Thomas.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the
3 family of United States Army Private First Class Bryan M. Thomas upon his death
4 in combat in Iraq.

5 WHEREAS, Private First Class Bryan M. Thomas had dreamed of serving in the
6 armed forces of his country for most of his life and was so determined to fulfill his dream
7 that he enlisted in the Army during his junior year of high school; and

8 WHEREAS, he also excelled in organized athletics at his high school, earning
9 positions on both the track team and the football team and the praises of his coaches; and

10 WHEREAS, Private First Class Thomas completed his basic training during the
11 summer before he graduated from high school, but he knew how important his education
12 was and entered the Army only after he had received his diploma; and

13 WHEREAS, his first duty assignment was in 2006, when he received orders directing
14 him to Baumholder, Germany, where he would become a proud member of the 1st Armored
15 Division, a legendary fighting force known to all as "Old Ironsides"; and

16 WHEREAS, Private First Class Thomas trained hard with his fellow soldiers in 2nd
17 Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team in Europe, sharpening his skills
18 as a ground warrior because he sensed he would need them when his unit was deployed to

1 one of the Asian combat zones; and

2 WHEREAS, he and his unit would be ordered to Salman Pak, Iraq, a lawless area
3 twenty-five miles southeast of Baghdad where frequent insurgent operations by radical
4 militias had turned the Tigris River town into one of Iraq's hottest spots; and

5 WHEREAS, Private First Class Thomas was twenty-two years old when he and other
6 soldiers of his Infantry battalion received their mission to locate enemy troops operating in
7 the area; and

8 WHEREAS, he and his unit located and engaged the enemy forces in a fierce
9 firefight June 23, 2008, and during the battle he was mortally wounded by small-arms fire
10 as he bravely fought; and

11 WHEREAS, Private First Class Thomas represented the best that our nation has to
12 offer and was proud to serve his country, salute its flag, wear its uniform and offer his own
13 life to maintain the liberty that all Americans enjoy; and

14 WHEREAS, while Private First Class Thomas will be missed and mourned by the
15 many who knew and loved him, his tragic loss to his thirteen-month-old daughter, Brenasia
16 Thomas, presents the challenge of a lifelong emptiness that only a father can fill.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby extend its solemn and most profound condolences to the family of United States
19 Army Private First Class Bryan M. Thomas for their immeasurable loss and his ultimate
20 sacrifice in his country's war on terror.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 family of Private First Class Bryan M. Thomas.

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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Thomas.