

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Patriot Guard Rider Michael D. Bares.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana to the family of Patriot Guard Rider Michael D. Bares upon his death in
4 the line of duty in support of the United States Armed Forces while rendering
5 military honors to a fallen Louisiana soldier.

6 WHEREAS, Michael D. Bares was a real patriot in the truest meaning of the word,
7 as he rode as a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, honoring Louisiana's fallen warriors and
8 comforting their families and loved ones; and

9 WHEREAS, he had attended many military funerals in his role as a Patriot Guard
10 Rider during his country's two-war involvement in the Global War On Terrorism and its
11 fight to preserve freedom; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael had spent much of Monday, January 26, 2009, with fellow
13 Patriot Guard Riders as they paid their last respects in memory of United States Marine
14 Corps Private First Class Caleb Rushing; and

15 WHEREAS, Michael and other riders added a highly visible degree of solemnity to
16 the ceremonies as they whispered quiet words of assurance to the grieving family and
17 insured that the services would be conducted with great military dignity as the young marine
18 was buried; and

1 WHEREAS, Michael was returning home from the mission that he and Patriot Guard
2 Riders had conducted for Caleb Rushing when a large truck crossed into his path and he was
3 mortally injured; and

4 WHEREAS, Mike's loss was a major blow to his family, friends, and fellow Patriot
5 Guard Riders, and news of the tragedy raced across Louisiana, from his home in
6 Independence to the gates of Ft. Polk; and

7 WHEREAS, a unit from Ft. Polk, in an act of great respect, decided that Mike,
8 despite being non-prior-military, deserved special military recognition for his steadfast work
9 with veterans, their families, and the Patriot Guard Riders; and

10 WHEREAS, the men of that unit applied for and were granted permission to render
11 military courtesies at Michael's funeral services, including draping his coffin with the
12 American flag and a detail of elite soldiers performing the flag folding ceremony and
13 presentation to his beloved wife, Karen; and

14 WHEREAS, the rare and nearly unheard of honors bestowed on Mike by the United
15 States military filled the broken hearts of both family and friends with pride that a great
16 American was being so recognized.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Patriot Guard
19 Rider Michael D. Bares for their immeasurable loss and his great sacrifice in the name of
20 liberty and freedom, and honoring those who fight to preserve them.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 family of Michael D. Bares.

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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