

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Army Sergeant Jonnie L. Stiles.

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 Army Sergeant Jonnie L. Stiles upon his
4 death in Operation Enduring Freedom.

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Jonnie L. Stiles was a native of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and
6 graduated from Broomfield High School, before deciding to serve his country in uniform
7 with the United States Marine Corps; and

8 WHEREAS, although Sergeant Stiles would serve several enlistments in the Marine
9 Corps and the United States Army before leaving active duty and returning to civilian life,
10 he never lost his love for military service; and

11 WHEREAS, while he would ultimately return to uniform as a member of the
12 Colorado Air National Guard, Sergeant Stiles sense of duty remained so strong that he
13 sought and received a transfer to a Louisiana National Guard unit being deployed to
14 Afghanistan; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stiles was soon in the Afghan theater of operations, serving
16 as a gunner on a humvee performing road clearing missions for the 769th Combat Engineer
17 Battalion; and

18 WHEREAS, as a member of the 927th Engineer Company (Sapper), he was exposed

1 to daily danger and was wounded in October 2008, when a suicide bomber blew up the
2 military vehicle in front of him, badly wounding three other soldiers that Sergeant Stiles was
3 able to rescue, despite his own wounds; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stiles, still recovering from his injuries one month later, was
5 leading his men on a road-clearing operation in Jalalabad when enemy forces detonated a
6 roadside bomb near his vehicle and he was mortally wounded; and

7 WHEREAS, while his 17-year military career was now over, Sergeant Stiles left a
8 legacy of duty, courage, and love of country that will live on in all who knew him, served
9 with him, and loved him; and

10 WHEREAS, many were gathered at Fort Logan National Cemetery to honor the 38-
11 year-old, highly decorated hero as the final military tributes began with prayers, moved on
12 to "roll call", then ended with a 21-gun salute, the playing of taps, and "Amazing Grace"
13 from a bagpiper, before the American flag was lifted from the coffin, tightly folded by the
14 six-man honor guard and presented to the family; and

15 WHEREAS, there was heavy irony in the traditional ceremony for the family of
16 Sergeant Stiles because he knew every part of it by heart, having served as a member of
17 dozens of honor guard details and having presented the flag to so many relatives of his fallen
18 comrades.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of United States
21 Army Sergeant Jonnie L. Stiles for their immeasurable loss and for his tremendous sacrifice
22 in his nation's Global War On Terrorism.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 family of United States Army Sergeant Jonnie L. Stiles.

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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