

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Army Private First Class Jason R. Watson.

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 Jason R. Watson upon his death in
4 combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

5 WHEREAS, Private First Class Jason R. Watson was a native of Many, Louisiana,
6 and his deep love of his country and his need to serve it would lead him to enlist in the
7 United States Army; and

8 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson aimed high in his efforts to become the best
9 soldier he could be and he trained hard to learn the warrior skills he knew he must master
10 when he became part of a combat unit; and

11 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson successfully completed the Army's tough
12 airborne training school and proudly pinned his hard-earned jump wings on his dress
13 uniform as he headed for his first duty station at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, he would become a member of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry
15 Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the legendary 101st Airborne Division, known as the
16 "Screaming Eagles" and famous for its participation in historic and hard-fought battles from
17 Normandy to the jungles of Viet Nam; and

18 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson's hard training would serve him well when

1 he and the soldiers of his airborne unit were deployed to Afghanistan to battle a growing
2 terrorist threat in the war-ravaged country; and

3 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson had just reached 19 years of age in February,
4 2009, when he and his fellow parachutists were engaged in a mounted patrol near Forward
5 Operating Base Salerno, in the rugged terrain of eastern Afghanistan where terrorists,
6 Taliban, and insurgents were operating; and

7 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson and his comrades were attacked by enemy
8 forces using improvised explosive devices and during the combat that followed, he and
9 Specialist Peter J. Courcy were mortally wounded; and

10 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson was deeply missed by the elite paratroops
11 he served with and fought beside and he was honored by ceremonies in the combat zone as
12 well as his home base of Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and

13 WHEREAS, the young infantryman's awards and decorations include the National
14 Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service
15 Ribbon, the Army Sharpshooter Badge, and the Army Expert Badge for the M4 Weapons
16 Qualification, as well as the Army Parachutist Badge; and

17 WHEREAS, Private First Class Watson served with great bravery in battle and
18 distinguished himself by his outstanding conduct while a member of one of the toughest
19 units in America's armed forces.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
21 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family and loved ones
22 of United States Army Private First Class Jason R. Watson for their immeasurable loss and
23 his supreme sacrifice while engaged in his country's Global War on Terror.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 family of Private First Class Jason R. Watson.

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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