CONDOLENCES. Extends condolences to the family of U.S. Army Specialist Steven Dupont upon his death in Afghanistan.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Steven Dupont upon his death in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Steven Dupont was a resident of Milton, Louisiana, where he was a 2008 graduate of Comeaux High School and a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, Steven Dupont and his family had moved to Milton after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home in Slidell in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Steven was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church, where he served as a volunteer in the church's youth ministry group and its summer vacation bible school program; and

WHEREAS, after high school he enlisted in the United States Army and was ultimately assigned to Ghost Rider Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment based out of Vilseck, Germany; and

WHEREAS, in the next two years, Steven trained hard and was promoted to Specialist as he and his unit prepared for a planned combat deployment to the Afghanistan theater of operations; and
WHEREAS, Specialist Dupont and his fellow soldiers arrived in the combat zone in late 2009 and were posted to the Taliban stronghold in Rangrizan, west of Kandahar, where fighting was frequent and fierce; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Dupont was engaged in a mounted sweep on October 24, 2009, when he and his vehicle were attacked by enemy forces using improvised explosive devices and he was mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Dupont was highly respected by his comrades and his superiors alike, receiving awards and decorations that included the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Dupont was only twenty years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and while his friends, family and loved ones miss him badly, they are equally proud to know such a young man who would volunteer to serve his country and fight its enemies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of United States Army Specialist Steven Dupont for his service and sacrifice for his country and for their terrible loss of their loved one.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Specialist Steven Dupont.

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

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Specialist Steven Dupont in Operation Enduring Freedom.