Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR ADLEY


A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Naval Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris in a helicopter crash in Oman during a Naval recovery operation.

WHEREAS, Aircrewman First Class Fitzmorris was a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and was also a 1999 honors graduate of Ruston High School in Ruston, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was a gifted athlete in high school sports, lettering in baseball, football, and track, but he never forgot that academics was his main priority as he studied hard to prepare himself for college; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology and Health Promotion from Louisiana Tech University and continued his work on his Masters of Science Degree at the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and

WHEREAS, "JP", as his friends called him, began to feel a strong calling to serve his country in some way, and decided he could best do that in uniform and in 2004 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, during his naval service, Aircrewman First Class Fitzmorris distinguished himself during several combat deployments to the Persian Gulf region when
the two-theater war raged at its highest; and

WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris, in addition to his combat experiences, participated in the huge humanitarian relief efforts following the deadly earthquakes in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris would meet, and on February 19, 2012, would marry, S.S. Navy Ensign Jacqueline Gulla, shortly before he deployed to Bahrain with his squadron; and

WHEREAS, soon he and the members of his unit were assigned to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, also known as the "Blackhawks", whose missions included heavy lift support operations; and

WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris and members of his squadron were conducting heavy lift support operations with a MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter on July 19, 2012, when the aircraft crashed outside Muscat, Oman; and

WHEREAS, the thirty-one year old Aircrewman was mortally injured in the crash, along with forty-year-old teammate Chief Naval Aircrewman Sean P. Sullivan of St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris will be terribly missed by his family and friends and his dogs, Nala and Drake, and when football season begins each fall, those who knew him will remember the great love he had for LSU football and the delight he took when driving his truck; and

WHEREAS, of all the things he loved during his life, nothing matched the deep love and devotion he felt for his wife, Jacquie.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of U.S. Navy Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris upon his death in the uniformed service of his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of U.S. Navy Aircrewman Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris.
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Adley SR No. 60

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Navy Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris.