

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY SENATOR PERRY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses the condolences of the Louisiana Senate upon the death of Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Aaron Rutledge.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the
3 family of Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Aaron Rutledge upon his
4 death in the service of his country.

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Aaron Rutledge was a native of Houston, Texas, and a
6 resident of Pineville, Louisiana, where he served as a recruiter for the Louisiana Army
7 National Guard in Natchitoches; and

8 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard
9 in 2004 and trained hard during his basic combat training and advanced training, welcoming
10 the challenges that military service required; and

11 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge excelled in his dedication and dependability
12 to his duties, and his commanders and superiors recognized his outstanding service by
13 promoting him to the leadership role as Staff Sergeant; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge and his unit were mobilized and deployed in
15 2011 in support of Operation New Dawn as Operation Iraqi Freedom came to an end and the
16 transition to Iraqi control of its military forces began; and

17 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge began working as a combat medic as his unit
18 found and engaged enemy forces determined to reverse the stability and cohesion that

1 departing U.S. forces had accomplished; and

2 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge and his men soon found themselves in the
3 middle of increased fighting and growing casualties as enemy attacks rose, and the horror,
4 shock, and graphic nature of those casualties strongly affected him; and

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge was rotated out of the theater of combat when
6 he and his men completed their tour of duty and returned home, but what they had witnessed
7 remained with them; and

8 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge and his unit were deployed once more, this time
9 to Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013, where terrorist forces had
10 regrouped and began major offensives to end American presence in the region; and

11 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge, serving as a combat medic, once again was
12 forced to confront terrible wounds and suffering on the battlefield, and those troubling
13 memories lingered with him as he headed for home; and

14 WHEREAS, sadly, on April 2, 2015, Staff Sergeant Rutledge suffered an untimely
15 death at the age of twenty-seven, leaving behind his wife Alex and son Ezra Lee; and

16 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Rutledge's awards and decorations include the Army
17 Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army
18 Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National
19 Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Campaign Star, the
20 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze
21 Hour Glass and Mobilization Device, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional
22 Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO
23 Medal, the Louisiana War Cross, 2nd Award, the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal, 2nd
24 Award, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, 2nd Award, the Louisiana Longevity Ribbon,
25 2nd Award, the Combat Action Badge and the Army National Guard Recruiter Badge.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Louisiana
28 Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Rutledge in their sorrow, mourning and loss, and
29 recognize his faithful service, sacrifice and valor in combat while in uniform.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 family of Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Aaron Rutledge.

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

SR 58 Original

DIGEST
2016 Regular Session

Perry

Expresses condolences upon the death of Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Aaron Rutledge.