

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR ADLEY

CONDOLENCES. Extends condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of U.S. Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith upon his death in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Stefan M. Smith was a native of Valley, Alabama, and from a family with strong military traditions, often relocating when his father a U.S. Army aviator received orders for a new duty station; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith was a 2008 graduate of Legrange High School in Georgia, where he was a star wrestler who impressed his coaches with his training regimen and his disciplined approach to sports activities; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith used the lessons he learned in competitive sports to help him achieve great leadership skills in his role as a city police officer in Glensville, Georgia, for a year and a half before joining the United States Army in November 2009 and fulfilling his lifelong dream to serve his country; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith met his future wife Kristi when he was seventeen and living at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where his father was stationed on active duty, and he would ultimately marry her and begin a family that would include three children, sons Dewey and Denver, and a daughter Gracie Smith whom he would never meet; and

1 WHEREAS, three years into his enlistment, Sergeant Smith received his orders to
2 report for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as a member of the
3 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry
4 Division, based in Fort Stewart, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, twenty-four year old Sergeant Smith and his unit would be stationed in
6 Wardak Province where the mission would be to find and engage enemy soldiers and bring
7 some stability to the violent stretch of Sayadabad District; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith, along with his Afghan counterparts, did find the enemy
9 in the town of Soltan Kheyl on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, while conducting a foot patrol
10 searching for enemy forces suspected of being in the area; and

11 WHEREAS, the patrol was suspicious when they encountered a disguised insurgent
12 soldier riding a donkey heavily loaded with concealed explosives which were detonated,
13 mortally wounding Sergeant Smith and two other American soldiers, as well as five allied
14 Afghan troops; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith's loss to his family, friends, and fellow soldiers can
16 never be fully measured, but his young children, aged three, two, and one year, will now
17 know their father only through photographs, family stories, and memories of happier days;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously; and

20 WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith's service and sacrifice must never be forgotten by the
21 people of Louisiana or the many other Americans on whose behalf he fought when his
22 country called.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of United States
25 Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith for their terrible loss of a husband, father, son, brother,
26 friend and fellow soldier.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
28 Sergeant Smith's wife Kristi and his children, as well as his mother Lisa Jabaley Mallory of
29 River Ridge, Louisiana, and father Patrick Smith of Leesville, Louisiana.

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

DIGEST

Adley

SR No. 91

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith in combat in Afghanistan.