

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of Louisiana Army National Guard Specialist Christopher R. Drake upon his death in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Specialist Christopher R. Drake was a native of Tickfaw, Louisiana, and a 2011 graduate of Independence High School, where he displayed great talent and proficiency on the school's football team and was recognized as an all-district cornerback; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Drake dreamed of going to college to get a degree in mechanical engineering; and

WHEREAS, it became apparent to Specialist Drake that his best option for financing his educational goals would be to join the Louisiana Army National Guard, where guardsmen are provided college benefits; and

WHEREAS, he enlisted in the Guard in September 2011, to become a truck driver, completing his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and being assigned to the 1084<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, 165<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 139<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group of the Louisiana Army National Guard based in Reserve, Louisiana, a unit that specializes in transportation on convoy escorts; and

WHEREAS, in April 2012, Specialist Drake arrived in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Drake was given the dangerous task of gunner on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and he performed bravely during the deadly patrols his unit conducted; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Drake soon won the hard-earned confidence of his fellow soldiers, and those who rode with him would jokingly declare that he saved their lives on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Drake was twenty years old when he and his crew were given a mission for Sunday, May 26, 2013, to conduct mounted patrols in support of American ground forces searching for the enemy; and

WHEREAS, on that day, Specialist Drake and his patrol found and engaged heavily armed enemy soldiers in Bagram, Afghanistan, and in the ensuing firefight, he and his vehicle were struck by a rocket-propelled grenade and Specialist Drake was mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Drake's sacrifice has left those who loved him, his brothers in arms, his friends and family and especially his mother Rose, his fiancée Britny and their young son with a sense of loss that cannot be measured, but they are also proud to have simply known such a truly great American.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends who dearly loved Specialist Christopher R. Drake and now mourn his loss and celebrate his contributions and sacrifices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Specialist Drake's mother, Rose, and his fiancée, Britny McAdams.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE