

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

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 U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Andrew T. Weathers upon his death in combat in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Andrew T. Weathers of DeRidder, Louisiana, loved his country and his state and its people, and in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he followed his heart and enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve and protect them; and

WHEREAS, he thrived in the Spartan lifestyle of the military as he successfully trained at Fort Eustis, Virginia, to become a CH-47 Chinook helicopter mechanic and then proceeded to his first duty station at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which is the most decorated aviation unit in the Army; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Weathers would be deployed twice with the 101st Combat Action Brigade, once to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 as a flight crew chief and once again in 2008 to Operation Enduring Freedom where he served as a Flight Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Weathers, upon his return from his second combat tour, volunteered for the U.S. Army Special Forces and successfully completed the Assessment and Selection Course and the Special Forces Qualification Course and earned the Green Beret; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Weathers' next assignment was to the 4th Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and later would move to the Group's 2nd Battalion in 2014; and

WHEREAS, he would train and become a Special Forces Medical Sergeant and was considered a critical part of his elite fighting unit's well-being and effectiveness during combat operations; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday evening, September 28, 2014, Sergeant First Class Weathers and his team were conducting an operation in response to reports of enemy activity in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, when they were engaged by a large, heavily-armed force of Taliban insurgents; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Weathers was mortally wounded during the fierce firefight that followed and he was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where he succumbed to his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Weathers' awards and decorations include the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Good Conduct Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Iraq Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Service Ribbon, the OVERSEAS Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Aviator Badge, the Special Forces Tab, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Sergeant First Class Andrew T. Weathers for their immeasurable loss and his brave service for his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Sergeant First Class Weathers.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE