

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 47

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 Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron upon his death.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron was a true leader in his Louisiana Army National Guard unit, A Company of the 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, based in Hammond, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service with the Louisiana Army National Guard, he enlisted in 1998 in the United States Marine Corps and served there for three years before joining the Guard in 2001 as a Black Hawk repairer; and

WHEREAS, partly because of his extensive experience as a qualified enlisted flight instructor, a graduate of the aircraft crew member standardization instructor course, the aircraft maintainer course, and the warrior leader course, Staff Sergeant Bergeron was a man that others aspired to be, according to the members of his unit; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bergeron had more than one thousand three hundred flight hours, including three hundred seventy-seven combat flight hours, and was a hardened combat veteran after two tours in Iraq in 2004 to 2005 and 2008 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, he was a strong and loving family man with a wife and two children; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bergeron played a key role during domestic deployments of his unit for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Isaac, and Operation River Guardian; and his experience had much to do with the rescue, recovery and resupply missions during those disasters; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bergeron was engaged in a routine nighttime training exercise with the Marine 2nd Special Operation Battalion on the evening of March 10, 2015, over the Florida Panhandle that involved the Marines fast roping into the water and performing reconnaissance tactics along the Florida coast; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bergeron's aircraft went down over the Santa Rosa Sound for reasons that remain unknown and all eleven personnel aboard perished in the crash; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hour Glass and M Device, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Louisiana War Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, Basic Aviation Badge, Senior Aviation Badge, and Combat Action 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 Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron for their immeasurable loss and his brave service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE