

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY SENATORS PERRY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of Louisiana to the family of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Mackey upon his death, July 28, 2010, while in the service of his country.

WHEREAS, Matthew Mackey was a native of Midland, Texas, born December 17, 1976, to Lyndon and Diane Williams Mackey, and graduated from Cahoma High School in 1995; and

WHEREAS, he began a career in the armed forces eighteen days after his high school graduation by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps and successfully completing the tough training required of all marines at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot on Paris Island, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, after his initial enlistment in the Marine Corps was complete, Matthew's plans changed, and he joined the U.S. Army National Guard in order to stay in the military and pursue his dream of earning a college degree; and

WHEREAS, he would marry Kanaan Anderson in Jacksonville, North Carolina, in 1998, and they began raising a family during the periods he and his unit were not deployed overseas; and

WHEREAS, SSG. Mackey felt truly blessed for his loving wife, Kanaan, and his five children, Alexis, Jonathan, Chloe, Aiden, and Hana, who all gave him great joy and fulfillment; and

WHEREAS, SSG. Mackey served his country bravely in Operation Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle in 2004, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from October of 2008 to October of 2009; and

WHEREAS, SSG. Mackey was enrolled in classes at Indian Hills Community College after his return from combat, taking instructions in aviation in order to fulfill a lifelong passion for flying; and

WHEREAS, SSG. Mackey was thirty-three years old and riding the motorcycle that gave him that feeling of flying when he was involved in a traffic accident that took his life on July 28, 2010, while his wife, Kaanan, held him in her arms at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, in a final, loving embrace; and

WHEREAS, SSG. Mackey's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with oakleaf cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal with bronze service star, Iraqi Campaign Medal with bronze service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization Device, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Driver and Mechanic Badge with Wheeled Device.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most sincere condolences to the family of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Mackey for their terrible loss and his courageous service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Kaanan Mackey.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE