

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 222

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

A RESOLUTION

To posthumously commemorate and honor the lives of Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson of the Baton Rouge Police Department by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana, to commend these two individuals whose lives were well-spent in service to their community, state, and country, and to acknowledge their ultimate sacrifice on July 17, 2016.

WHEREAS, condolences are also extended to the family, friends, and fellowship of law enforcement personnel who loved and admired Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson for their dedication to professional excellence and the values that they upheld; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Montrell Lyle Jackson was a ten-year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department who died in the line of duty while protecting the lives of other law enforcement officers and the citizens of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, he was the loving and devoted husband to Trenisha Jackson and father to their young son, Mason Lyle Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Montrell Jackson was a God-fearing family man, who was loyal, respectful, and honest; and

WHEREAS, Montrell Jackson pursued his true vocation of law enforcement upon graduation from the Baton Rouge Police Academy on June 6, 2006; he swore an oath to step into harm's way to protect and serve his community; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Lane Gerald served four years in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of corporal and was honorably discharged; he then rejoined the

military in 2002 with the United States Army and was deployed to Iraq for three tours; he worked as a Black Hawk helicopter crew chief, a Longknife Squadron member, and Stetson Troop 4/3 ACR member while earning many decorations, including four Air Medals; and

WHEREAS, the oldest cadet in his graduating class at the police academy and a first-year officer of the Baton Rouge Police Department, Matthew Gerald had an exuberance for "wearing the blue" that was evident to all who had the privilege to know him; he was affectionately called "Mr. Buttons" by his BRPD family; and

WHEREAS, Matthew was devoted to his wife, Dechia, and their daughters, Dawclyn and Fynleigh; and eight months after his passing, a blessed event occurred; a son was born into the Gerald family, Falyn Matthew Gerald, who has earned the nickname of "Baby Buttons" after his father; and

WHEREAS, both policemen were held in high regard by their peers, both took pride in their contributions to the Baton Rouge community, and both had an endearing compassion for people they served; and

WHEREAS, as easy-going as they both were, Matthew Gerald and Montrell Jackson did not hesitate to voice their opinion if any action challenged their morals and values; and

WHEREAS, in the days and weeks that followed their passing, both widows, Trenisha Jackson and Dechia Gerald, called upon the citizens of Baton Rouge to come together in unity for the purpose of good and to not let hate infect hearts or the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement is a noble calling and the extraordinary character, humanity, and sacrifice of these individuals was made evident in the outpouring of appreciation and enduring gratitude from the people of the city, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson shall forever be remembered for their bravery and dedication to our country, our community, and our fellow man; these men are our heroes; and

WHEREAS, as their law enforcement comrades in arms would note, Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson of the Baton Rouge Police Department are at the End of Watch; and they have gone to their heavenly home to be at peace with the Lord and under the eternal protection of St. Michael, patron saint of The Thin Blue Line.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby posthumously commemorate and honor the lives of Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson of the Baton Rouge Police Department and does hereby acknowledge their ultimate sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the exemplary public service performed by these law enforcement officers for the citizens of this state and that the legacy of their bravery forever shall remain a memory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the families of Officer Matthew Gerald and Corporal Montrell Jackson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE