SLS 18RS-1320 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATORS WARD AND WHITE

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Zachary firefighter and reserve policeman, Chris Lawton.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the untimely death of Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton, Zachary Fire Department Deputy Chief and 3 Zachary Police Department Reserve Officer and to commend the legacy of public 4 5 service he leaves to his community and state. 6 WHEREAS, it was with profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana extends 7 condolences to the family, friends, and fellowship of firefighters and law enforcement 8 personnel who loved and admired Chris Lawton for his dedication to professional excellence 9 and to the values that he upheld; and 10 WHEREAS, Chris Lawton was a kind and honorable man of great courage, a public 11 servant of the highest caliber, who was among those chosen few, those first-responders, who unselfishly place themselves in harm's way to assure the safety of all, the preservation of 12 13 peace, and enforcement of law; and 14 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2018, Chris succumbed to injuries encountered in the line of duty as a reserve police officer, the first line-of-duty death in Zachary Police Department 15 16 history; he departed this life at the age of forty-one; even so, his legacy of twenty-two years of exemplary public service to the people of this state whom he served so well, shall remain 17

forever in their memories; and

1	WHEREAS, public service came naturally to Chris Lawton, his father was also a
2	volunteer fire chief; and
3	WHEREAS, a graduate of Zachary High School in 1995, Chris began his career as
4	a firefighter the following year at the Baton Rouge District Six Fire Department on Prescott
5	Road along with Fire Marshal Butch Browning, who was then a chief; and
6	WHEREAS, Deputy Chief Chris Lawton joined the Zachary Fire Department in
7	1998, earned the rank of captain, received his fire science associate degree from the Carrol
8	L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute at LSU, and he also served the department
9	as an arson investigator; and
10	WHEREAS, Chris was a "double hero" having served his community as both a
11	firefighter and reserve policeman; and
12	WHEREAS, in 2008, Chris joined the Zachary Police Department as a fully certified
13	reserve officer, which is a volunteer position, where he worked part time and without pay
14	for the last decade; he logged more than two thousand hours as a reserve officer; and
15	WHEREAS, during his career, Chief Lawton received numerous acknowledgments
16	that included Medical Life Saves, Fire Stops, and Unit and Crew Citations; in 2014, Chris
17	was the recipient of a medical lifesaver award after rendering aid to a heart attack victim
18	while he and his family were on vacation in Mexico; and
19	WHEREAS, Chief Lawton shall be remembered as a motivator who shared his
20	expertise with his coworkers, placing particular emphasis on the credo "to protect and
21	serve"; he was always "on the job", twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, and was
22	well-respected by his peers; and
23	WHEREAS, Chris, "always wanting to learn", graduated from the Leadership North
24	training program for local leaders organized by the Zachary Chamber of Commerce, was
25	certified as a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) firearms instructor, and worked
26	along side Zachary police detectives on high level investigations; and
27	WHEREAS, Chris had a generous spirit; he volunteered at community events, at
28	charity fundraisers, and at his church, Zachary United Methodist, to build wheelchair ramps
29	or cut lawns for the elderly; and
30	WHEREAS, Chief Lawton was a founding member of Local #4644 of the Zachary

1 Firefighters Association and a member of International Association of Arson Investigators; 2 and 3 WHEREAS, at his funeral, Chief Chris Lawton was honored on behalf of a grateful 4 nation with an honor guard and a procession of fellow firefighters and law enforcement officers from across the country who paid homage to their fallen comrade and accompanied 5 6 him to his final rest; and 7 WHEREAS, the lengthy procession of first-responders escorted Chief Lawton passed 8 the police station and the fire station along Main Street and passed an American flag hung 9 between two crisscrossed ladder trucks with thousands of mourners who lined the street and 10 held flags; and 11 WHEREAS, community leaders honored the memory of Chief Chris Lawton; the 12 Zachary City Council had a moment of silence to memorialize his service; Baton Rouge 13 Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome ordered all flags at city-parish buildings be flown 14 at half-staff; and he received dual funeral honors, In the Line of Duty Police Officer Death 15 Honors as well as Active Duty Fire Department Death Honors; and 16 WHEREAS, Chief Chris Lawton is survived by his loving wife, Shannon; their children, Marshall and Claire; and a host of extended family and loving friends; and 17 18 WHEREAS, Chris Lawton had a profound effect on the people he loved and the 19 community he served and he shall be remembered for his service, bravery, and sacrifice; and 20 WHEREAS, as his comrades-in-arms will note, Deputy Chief Chris Lawton is now 21 10-7; he is at the End of Watch; and he has gone to his heavenly home to be at peace with 22 his savior, Jesus Christ. 23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 24 express heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, fellow firefighters and law enforcement 25 officers of Deputy Chief Chris Lawton of Zachary, who died doing his best in the line of duty as a reserve police officer on March 12, 2018. 26 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby note his dedication to the noble calling of both fire protection and law enforcement, his character 28 29 and humanity, and his sacrifice, and does hereby make evident the enduring appreciation and

gratitude of the people of the state of Louisiana.

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SLS 18RS-1320 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 100

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

family of Deputy Chief Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton.

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SCR 100 Original

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

DIGEST 2018 Regular Session

Ward

Expresses condolences upon the death of Deputy Fire Chief Chris Lawton of Zachary, Louisiana.