

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

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 Thomas Florich upon his death.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich of Fairfax County, Virginia, enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard in 2007, as a Black Hawk repairer, served state deployments for Operation Deepwater Horizon and Hurricane Isaac, earning more than one hundred twenty-five flight hours, and was also a graduate of the warrior leader course; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich was a member of A Company, 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, headquartered in Hammond, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich was living in Baton Rouge as he served in the guard while he attended Louisiana State University, and his family believed that he intended to make a career in the military after completing college; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich was twenty-six years old when he and his crew flew out of Eglin Air Force Base near Pensacola, Florida, on March 10, 2015, to engage in a nighttime water insertion operation with Marine Special Operations Command personnel from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich and his crew planned to fly the Marines to a site off shore and allow them to fast rope down to the water and then swim ashore, in a technique typically used for reconnaissance missions, but the aircraft, without warning, suddenly crashed into Santa Rosa Sound and all aboard perished; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich was married and leaves behind his wife, and father and stepmother; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich was preceded in death by his mother who died while he was a child; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon, Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, and the Basic Aviation 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 Thomas Florich for their immeasurable loss and his brave service.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE