

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR ADLEY

CONDOLENCES. Extends condolences on the death of U.S. Navy Aircrewman Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris in Oman.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of United States Naval Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris in
4 a helicopter crash in Oman during a Naval recovery operation.

5 WHEREAS, Aircrewman First Class Fitzmorris was a native of Shreveport,
6 Louisiana, and was also a 1999 honors graduate of Ruston High School in Ruston,
7 Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, he was a gifted athlete in high school sports, lettering in baseball,
9 football, and track, but he never forgot that academics was his main priority as he studied
10 hard to prepare himself for college; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2003, Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris earned his Bachelor of Science
12 Degree in Kinesiology and Health Promotion from Louisiana Tech University and continued
13 his work on his Masters of Science Degree at the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and

14 WHEREAS, "JP", as his friends called him, began to feel a strong calling to serve
15 his country in some way, and decided he could best do that in uniform and in 2004 he
16 enlisted in the U.S. Navy; and

17 WHEREAS, during his naval service, Aircrewman First Class Fitzmorris
18 distinguished himself during several combat deployments to the Persian Gulf region when

1 the two-theater war raged at its highest; and

2 WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris, in addition to his combat experiences,
3 participated in the huge humanitarian relief efforts following the deadly earthquakes in Haiti;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris would meet, and on February 19, 2012, would
6 marry, S.S. Navy Ensign Jacqueline Gulla, shortly before he deployed to Bahrain with his
7 squadron; and

8 WHEREAS, soon he and the members of his unit were assigned to Helicopter Mine
9 Countermeasures Squadron 15, also known as the "Blackhawks", whose missions included
10 heavy lift support operations; and

11 WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris and members of his squadron were conducting
12 heavy lift support operations with a MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter on July 19, 2012, when
13 the aircraft crashed outside Muscat, Oman; and

14 WHEREAS, the thirty-one year old Aircrewman was mortally injured in the crash,
15 along with forty-year-old teammate Chief Naval Aircrewman Sean P. Sullivan of St. Louis,
16 Missouri; and

17 WHEREAS, Aircrewman Fitzmorris will be terribly missed by his family and friends
18 and his dogs, Nala and Drake, and when football season begins each fall, those who knew
19 him will remember the great love he had for LSU football and the delight he took when
20 driving his truck; and

21 WHEREAS, of all the things he loved during his life, nothing matched the deep love
22 and devotion he felt for his wife, Jacquie.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby extend its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of U.S. Navy
25 Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris upon his death in the uniformed service
26 of his country.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 family of U.S. Navy Aircrewman Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Adley

SR No. 60

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Navy Aircrewman First Class Joseph Patrick Fitzmorris.