

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

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 U.S. Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith upon his death in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Stefan M. Smith was a native of Valley, Alabama, and from a family with strong military traditions, often relocating when his father, a U.S. Army aviator, received orders for a new duty station; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith was a 2008 graduate of Legrange High School in Georgia, where he was a star wrestler who impressed his coaches with his training regimen and his disciplined approach to sports activities; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith used the lessons he learned in competitive sports to help him achieve great leadership skills in his role as a city police officer in Glensville, Georgia, for a year and a half before joining the United States Army in November 2009 and fulfilling his lifelong dream to serve his country; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith met his future wife, Kristi, when he was seventeen and living at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where his father was stationed on active duty, and he would ultimately marry her and begin a family that would include three children, sons, Dewey and Denver, and a daughter, Gracie Smith, whom he would never meet; and

WHEREAS, three years into his enlistment, Sergeant Smith received his orders to report for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, based in Fort Stewart, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, twenty-four year old Sergeant Smith and his unit would be stationed in Wardak Province where the mission would be to find and engage enemy soldiers and bring some stability to the violent stretch of Sayadabad District; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith, along with his Afghan counterparts, did find the enemy in the town of Soltan Kheyl on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, while conducting a foot patrol searching for enemy forces suspected of being in the area; and

WHEREAS, the patrol was suspicious when they encountered a disguised insurgent soldier riding a donkey heavily loaded with concealed explosives which were detonated, mortally wounding Sergeant Smith and two other American soldiers, as well as five allied Afghan troops; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith's loss to his family, friends, and fellow soldiers can never be fully measured, but his young children, aged three, two, and one year, will now know their father only through photographs, family stories, and memories of happier days; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith's service and sacrifice must never be forgotten by the people of Louisiana or the many other Americans on whose behalf he fought when his country called.

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 United States Army Sergeant Stefan M. Smith for their terrible loss of a husband, father, son, brother, friend and fellow soldier.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Smith's wife, Kristi, and his children, as well as his mother, Lisa Jabaley Mallory, of River Ridge, Louisiana, and father, Patrick Smith, of Leesville, Louisiana.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE