

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

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 United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Gregory Mullins upon his death during a combat training exercise in California.

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins grew up in Bayou L'Ourse, a small town in Assumption Parish where everyone in the community knew each other, worshiped together, and worked along the side of their neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins graduated from Morgan City High School and in March of 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to fulfill his lifelong goal of becoming a Marine; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins had long valued loyalty, courage and integrity, and he worked and trained hard, and made those qualities a part of his life as a dedicated Marine; and

WHEREAS, as a highly respected member of the Corps, he chose as his field of expertise the extremely dangerous job of an explosive ordnance disposal technician, and after much training, he became part of an elite team of Marine Corps ordnance experts; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins mastered his military duties and responsibilities quickly and was steadily promoted as his leadership skills were recognized by his superior officers; an inspiration to his men, the troops in his unit followed his orders without hesitation; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins would be deployed twice to Afghanistan, in 2011 and 2012, as a team leader and learned much as he patrolled the often ambushed routes of the deadly war zone in search of much feared improvised explosive devices; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins returned to the United States from Operation Enduring Freedom with much combat experience and was chosen to serve as the Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2013, thirty-one year old Gunnery Sergeant Mullins was one of a group of Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians sweeping a firing range called the Zulu impact area where munitions such as grenades, mortars, artillery and rockets were used for training Marines in the dangerous art of war; and

WHEREAS, during the range maintenance operation to dispose of unexpended ordnance, no live fire of weapons are allowed, but the munitions being collected and secured for disposal can be so unstable that handling them is extremely dangerous, even for the elite and highly trained Marine explosives experts; and

WHEREAS, Range NCOIC Gunnery Sergeant Mullins, Staff Sergeant Mathew Marsh, Staff Sergeant Eric Summers, and Sergeant Miguel Ortiz were all mortally wounded when the munitions they were collecting detonated; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Mullins' awards and decorations include two Navy and Marine Corps Commendations Medals, the deeply respected Combat Action Ribbon, three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan.

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 Gunnery Sergeant Gregory Mullins for the immeasurable loss they have suffered by his death and for the ultimate sacrifice this Marine made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to U.S.M.C. Gunnery Sergeant Gregory Mullins wife Violeta, his children, Ethan, age three, Giovanna, age two, and stepdaughter, Camila, age nine, as well as his mother Dena Polk, and father Christopher Holbert.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE