

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATORS PERRY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, 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 Lynette Miller Bell upon her death.

WHEREAS, Lynette Miller Bell touched so many lives in such a positive and healing manner during times of great sorrow and grief as a founding member of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter 1 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, along with her dear friends, Janet Broussard and Joni Nunnery, in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Lynette had a tremendous passion for military personnel and their families, and her involvement in creating a military ministry at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church brought much comfort to those in uniform and to those at home awaiting their return; and

WHEREAS, Lynette was instrumental in her work to form a special Way of the Cross for our troops and a Military Rosary for members of our armed forces to use when they were stationed in places far from home; and

WHEREAS, Lynette and other members of the Blue Star Mothers supported military families by letter writing efforts and sending care packages to American troops, and she got schools involved in making and sending cards, letters and essays to our armed forces stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan as the War on Terror expanded and armed forces levels rose to meet the growing challenge; and

WHEREAS, Lynette was also deeply committed to military events at the USS Kidd and helped start and organize those ceremonies that have become part of the Baton Rouge community; and

WHEREAS, Lynette spearheaded the first prayer rally held at the USS Kidd for our troops and more than one thousand people gathered and prayed that the first free elections held in Iraq would help hasten the safe return of our forces; and

WHEREAS, she could also be counted on to work and organize patriotic events on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day and the Freedom Walk in honor of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Lynette was a driving force in the Wreaths Across America ceremony each year as groups such as the Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers placed Christmas wreaths on all the graves in military cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Lynette formed a strong bond with the Gold Star Families whose children had made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom by doing all she could to support and honor them, and she helped start the annual Gold Star Luncheon where the families were honored and presented a Gold Star flag and pin; and

WHEREAS, Lynette and the Blue Star Mothers also lobbied the Louisiana Legislature to pass laws that prevented protests at soldiers' funerals, created more benefits for our troops and authorized the creation of a Gold Star license plate in honor of the fallen; and

WHEREAS, one of Lynette's proudest moments was traveling to Arlington National Cemetery with her son, Sergeant Mark St. Roman, Janet Broussard and Shari Yazback to present the four Vietnam soldiers' families their Gold Star flags when their loved ones' remains were recovered, and she prayed over their graves, Proverbs 3:6, "In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your effort with success".

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 Lynette Miller Bell for its loss of such an American patriot and for her many sacrifices on behalf of armed forces personnel everywhere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Lynette Miller Bell.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE