

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATORS PERRY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, 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. Naval Aviation Boatswain's Mate Matthew Chialastri upon his death in a Navy plane crash in the Philippine Sea.

WHEREAS, Matthew Chialastri was a native of Baton Rouge and a 2013 graduate of Woodlawn High School where he was the valedictorian of his class; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Chialastri was a member of the U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps at Woodlawn High School for two years, where he was honored as the East Baton Rouge Parish Cadet of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Chialastri was considered by fellow program members to be a true and natural leader in JROTC as the commander of the program's color guard and the various drill activities; and

WHEREAS, Matthew enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 25, 2014, and started his basic training at the Recruit Training Command before beginning his active duty career aboard the USS AMERICA where he served from December 1, 2015, until October 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri's duty stations included Patrol Squadron Thirty in Jacksonville, Florida, and the Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Point in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri arrived at Commander Fleet Activities, Yokusuka, Japan, and checked into Ronald Reagan Ranch on November 5, 2017, to begin his preparations to join the USS Ronald Reagan already underway; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri was aboard a C-2A Greyhound transport aircraft on November 22, 2017, headed for the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier when the plane crashed in the Philippine Sea; and

WHEREAS, while a massive search effort was successful in rescuing eight members of the eleven crew members on board, Airman Chialastri and two others could not be found; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri and the two other sailors lost in the crash were honored with a memorial service aboard the USS Ronald Reagan at sea where they were eulogized by Captain Buzzy Donnelly the commanding officer of the USS Ronald Reagan and remembered by fellow crew members; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy Battle "E" Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Airman Chialastri brought great honor to the U.S. Navy, to those he served with, and to himself, for his inspirational leadership, dedication, and the ultimate sacrifice he made in the performance of his duties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most profound and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Airman Matthew Chialastri for his outstanding service to his country and the immeasurable sacrifices he made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of U.S. Naval Aviation Boatswain's Mate Matthew Chialastri.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE