

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 48

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 Louisiana Army National Guard Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Four George Wayne Griffin Jr. upon his death.

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Four George Wayne Griffin Jr. was a native of Delhi, Louisiana, and attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette after his graduation from Acadiana High School; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. was so drawn to the idea of flying that he studied, trained, and earned his small plane pilot's license when he was only sixteen years old; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. had a passion for military service early in his life, and decided in 1994 to put college on hold in order to pursue his dream of flying military aircraft; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. completed his flight training for helicopters at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 1999, when he was the youngest graduate in his class and was awarded his Basic Aviation Badge and promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer as he began his distinguished twenty-one year career as a military pilot; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. would ultimately accumulate more than six thousand flight hours in the Black Hawk helicopter and more than one thousand combat hours during two tours where he bravely served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004 to 2005 and 2008 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. met his wife, Becky, during his military service, and they married soon after he returned from his first tour in Iraq in 2005, and began a family which would soon grow to four children; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. found himself in quite a different battle after his overseas duty when he and his unit, the 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, based in Hammond, were deployed to assist in rescue operations following hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Isaac; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. would also serve in state deployments in support of Operation River Guardian and the Deepwater Horizon disaster following the BP oil spill; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin Jr. awards and decorations from his military service, include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Bronze Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with Oakleaf Cluster, the Louisiana War Cross, and many other awards, as well as the Combat Action Badge and the Senior Army Aviator Badge; and

WHEREAS, CWO4 Griffin was engaged in a night training mission with his crew and a team of seven Marines over the Florida Panhandle on March 10, 2015, when his UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter crashed into the water off the Santa Rosa Sound with no survivors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolence to the family of Chief Warrant Officer Four George Wayne Griffin Jr. for their loss of a wonderful father, son, and husband as he carried out his duties as a highly trained and elite combat military aviator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of CWO4 George Wayne Griffin Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE