

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

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 U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jason M. Smith upon his death while in the service of his country.

WHEREAS, Jason M. Smith was a native of Destrehan, Louisiana, where he attended Destrehan High School and graduated in 1999 before he decided to enlist in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Jason M. Smith made the decision early in his service that he would make the U.S. Army a career and that he would specialize in aviation, learning all he could about keeping a rotary winged aircraft operational and flying and being the best and most well-trained crew member that he could; and

WHEREAS, he trained hard and learned the qualities of what it takes to be a great crew member, and his commanders noticed his outstanding skills and knowledge of flying and promoted him steadily up through the ranks until he achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Smith used his considerable experience and expertise in helicopters during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina where he served as part of the recovery efforts in New Orleans, South Louisiana and other areas stricken by the killer storm; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Smith served his country bravely and steadfastly while he was deployed multiple times to combat theaters in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom from August 2004 to March 2005, Operation Enduring Freedom from September 2011 to September 2012, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel from September 2014 to May 2015; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Smith successfully completed many military schools during his career and became expert in emergency medical techniques, hazardous materials safety and small arms maintenance; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2015, Sergeant First Class Smith was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment, 1st Army Division West, at Fort Hood, Texas, and was taking part in a routine training mission when his aircraft crashed for unknown reasons, taking his life and the lives of three other crew members; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Smith's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, two Air Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, several Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, Five Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, two Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, and the Senior Aviation Badge.

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 U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jason M. Smith for their immeasurable loss and for his courageous service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jason M. Smith's wife, Trisha Smith.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE