

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Christopher
3 Michael "Chris" Lawton, Zachary Fire Department Deputy Chief and reserve officer
4 with the Zachary Police Department.

5 WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and sincere sorrow that the members of the
6 House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature learned of the untimely death at the
7 age of forty-one of Chris Lawton, a dedicated deputy fire chief and reserve police officer
8 who gave his life in the line of duty on Monday, March 12, 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, Chris Lawton was the loving husband of Shannon and the proud father
10 of two children who were his world, Marshall and Claire; and

11 WHEREAS, a 1995 graduate of Zachary High School, he went on to earn his fire
12 science degree from Louisiana State University in 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, Chris Lawton served the citizens of Zachary for more than twenty years;
14 Chief Lawton started his public service career with District Six Fire Department in 1996; he
15 became a full-time firefighter with the Zachary Fire Department in 1998; he earned the rank
16 of captain in 2005; and

17 WHEREAS, from 2011 until the time of his death, Chief Lawton held the position
18 of deputy chief, the second highest rank within the Zachary Fire Department; he was also
19 an arson investigator for the city of Zachary and a reserve officer for the Zachary Police
20 Department; he joined the police department in 2008 and gave more than two thousand hours
21 of volunteer time; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2017, Chief Lawton became a P.O.S.T. firearm training instructor;
2 he was an active and founding member of the Zachary Firefighter Association, Local 4644;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, during Chief Lawton's career, he received numerous awards, including
5 Medical Life Saves, Fire Stops, and Unit and Crew Citations; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Lawton was a member of the International Association of Arson
7 Investigators, Zachary Police Reserves, Zachary United Methodist Church, and Zachary
8 Cross Fit; and

9 WHEREAS, Chris was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish; he enjoyed
10 being in the woods; it was his time to reconnect with God; and

11 WHEREAS, Chief Lawton's humor, courage, bravery, sacrifice, integrity, and
12 graciousness enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with him; and

13 WHEREAS, Chris Lawton is survived by his wife of nineteen years, Shannon;
14 children, Marshall and Claire; parents, Doug and Pam Lawton and Joy and Terry Decuir;
15 father-in-law and mother-in-law, Tim and Dorothea Holley; siblings, Tommy Lawton and
16 his wife Summer, Brad Lawton and his wife Brandi, Kristin Cummings and her husband
17 Brad, and Kelli Knight and her husband Jonathan; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Emma
18 and Chad Fontenot, Tony Kaiser, and Sheena and Ryan Wisler; grandparents, Reverend Bob
19 Lawton, Byron Andrus, and Wilma Farmer; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles,
20 and cousins.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
23 death of Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton, Zachary Fire Department Deputy Chief and
24 reserve officer with the Zachary Police Department, who died in the line of duty on Monday,
25 March 12, 2018, and hereby pays tribute to his remarkable legacy that shall live forever in
26 the hearts of his fellow firefighters and police officers and all of the citizens of Louisiana.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
28 to the family of Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 128 Original

2018 Regular Session

Havard

Expresses condolences upon the death of Chief Christopher Michael "Chris" Lawton of the Zachary Fire Dept. and the Zachary Police Dept. who died in the line of duty on Mon., March 12, 2018.