

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES