

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

CONDOLENCES. Expresses the condolences of the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature on the death of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Lester Walker.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the  
3 family of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Lester Walker upon his death in ground  
4 combat in the Korean War.

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Lester Walker was a native of Concordia,  
6 Louisiana, and grew up in a family of eight siblings; and

7 WHEREAS, when he was only sixteen, Sergeant Walker was committed to joining  
8 the U.S. Army to defend the country in the Korean War and convinced his parents to allow  
9 him to enlist early; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a member of B Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic  
11 Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, one of the first infantry units ordered to the  
12 Korean Peninsula in July 1950, to combat the quickly advancing North Korean People's  
13 Army; and

14 WHEREAS, on September 1, 1950, the Korean People's Army penetrated the 2nd  
15 ID front along the Naktong River, cutting the division in two, and battled the U.S. forces for  
16 several days, until the Korean's offensive capability was largely destroyed; and

17 WHEREAS, after the battle, on September 3, 1950, Sergeant Walker was listed as  
18 missing in action; and

1           WHEREAS, because of the lack of information about his whereabouts, the Army  
2 issued a presumptive finding of death on December 31, 1953, posthumously promoting him  
3 from sergeant to sergeant first class; three years later, in 1956, the Army declared Walker's  
4 remains as nonrecoverable; and

5           WHEREAS, for years his loving family mourned the loss of their son and brother,  
6 never knowing the details about his fate, until technological advances made possible the  
7 identification of unknown remains previously deemed unidentifiable; and

8           WHEREAS, in May 2017, the family was notified that the remains of Lester Walker  
9 had been identified and they would be returned to the family for a proper burial with full  
10 military honors, which took place on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at Ruggs Bluff Cemetery, in  
11 Point, Louisiana, sixty-seven years after having been declared as missing in action; and

12           WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Lester Walker is listed on the Walls of the Missing  
13 at the American Battle Monument Commission, and is entitled to the Prisoner of War Medal,  
14 Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service  
15 Medal with one bronze service star, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea-Korea  
16 War Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea-Presidential Unit Citation.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
18 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of U.S. Army  
19 Sergeant First Class Lester Walker for the immeasurable loss and wish to recognize him for  
20 his service and for the great sacrifices he made on behalf of his country.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 family of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Lester Walker.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

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DIGEST

SR 134 Original                      2018 Regular Session                      Walsworth

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Lester Walker.