

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATORS WALSWORTH, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, 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 Lester Walker upon his death in ground combat in the Korean War.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Lester Walker for the immeasurable loss and wish to recognize him for his service and for the great sacrifices he made on behalf of his country.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE