

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of Mississippi Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Severin West Summers, III upon his death in combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Severin Summers, III, a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, was a 1984 graduate of Christian Life Academy after which, he attended Louisiana State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1989, where he distinguished himself using his great leadership abilities, and in 2002, he earned the coveted "Green Beret" when he successfully completed the Special Forces Qualification Course; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Summers later joined C Company 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the Mississippi National Guard, but he continued to hone his warrior skills by successfully graduating from the tough, elite, Army Ranger School; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Summers, already a recipient of the Army's Parachutist Badge, would continue throughout his twenty-year military career to train and acquire special skills in combat areas such as the Special Operations Combat Diver Course, Military Free Fall Parachutist Course, Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course, Air Assault Course, the difficult Army Pathfinder Course, the Canadian Parachutist Course and also earning the German Bronze Parachutist Badge; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Summers was stationed at many military hot spots around the world such as Kosovo, Panama, Guatemala and a tour of duty in Afghanistan in

2006; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Summers left the relative safety of a recruiter's job at home in Bentonia, Mississippi, when he volunteered for another tour in Afghanistan, leaving behind his loving wife, Tammy, and daughters Jessica, Shelby and Sarah, and arriving in theater on July 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, at the time, Sergeant First Class Summers was one of three brothers in his family serving in war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq, while another brother prepared for combat at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Severin Summers, III, was forty-three years old when he received orders to conduct patrols in the Qole Gerdsar area on August 2, 2009, and search for enemy forces operating there; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Summers and two other Green Berets from his unit were engaged by armed enemy combatants that day using a command controlled improvised explosive device which struck their vehicle and mortally wounded all three special forces soldiers; and

WHEREAS, his awards included the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon and the highly respected Combat Infantryman 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 Sergeant First Class Severin West Summers, III, for their enormous loss and for his long, faithful and courageous service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Mississippi National Guardsman Sergeant First Class Severin West Summers, III.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE