

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

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 United States Army Private First Class Brian Bates.

WHEREAS, Brian Bates was a native son of Gretna, Louisiana, where he attended George Cox Elementary and Livaudais Middle School in Terrytown, and developed his athletic skills while participating in basketball, baseball and soccer on the fields at Oakdale Park; and

WHEREAS, he was raised primarily by his grandmother, Marline O'Briant Tully, and later, as a young man, he found work in the offshore oil world, holding various jobs and working hard to support his family; and

WHEREAS, Brian now had a growing family of his own and in order to better support his wife, Enjolie and his baby daughter and infant son, he enlisted in the United States Army in November 2008; and

WHEREAS, Brian immersed himself in the rigors of basic combat training and found great satisfaction in the Spartan lifestyle of the military as he successfully completed his advanced individual training; and

WHEREAS, Brian, now a Private First Class, had toughened and hardened into an excellent soldier during his duty at Ft. Lewis, Washington, learning the finer points of being an infantryman; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bates knew he would be heading for the war in Afghanistan sooner, or later, because of his job as a ground, combat trooper and his assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, when PFC Bates received his orders for Operation Enduring Freedom much sooner than expected, his wife Enjolie left college in order to spend the last several months with her husband before his deployment; and

WHEREAS, after a whirlwind visit home and a family trip to Disney World, in July 2009, PFC Bates landed at his new duty station at Forward Operating Base Ramrod in southern Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bates was soon serving as a member of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and driving his fellow soldiers into combat in a Stryker armored vehicle; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bates was twenty years old as he worked the controls of his massive personnel carrier on October 27, 2009, through the uncharted, enemy-infested territory of Kandahar, investigating reports of terrorist forces operating in his unit's tactical area of operations; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bates and his men were soon engaged by enemy troops who employed roadside, improvised explosive devices to mortally wound him and seven other American soldiers in two separate bombings in the highly unstable province known for its many Taliban fighters; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bates was highly decorated for his brave combat service, receiving the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the NATO Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the prestigious 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 PFC Brian Bates for their tremendous sacrifice and his courageous service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of PFC Bates.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE