

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To commend United States Army National Guard Captain Joseph Mayeaux for his brave service on behalf of his country and his outstanding leadership of his troops during combat operations in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Army Captain Joseph Mayeaux is an alumni of St. Joseph High School in his native Plaquemine and enlisted in the United States Army National Guard soon after his graduation; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux continued his education at Louisiana State University where he would earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management and receive his Officer's Commission as the 2003 Distinguished Military Graduate of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux would continue to greatly distinguish himself as he trained in several specialty areas that would allow him to sharpen his warrior skills as he successfully completed the Army Engineer School, the Army Infantry School, the Army Airborne School, and Army FORSCOM Anti-Terrorism Training; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux entered active duty National Guard status, along with many of his fellow soldiers, as fighting grew in southwest Asia and deployments to combat theaters increased; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux would receive orders assigning him to Phoenix, Arizona, where he would initially serve as a Platoon Leader of the 259th Engineering Company, but his considerable infantry skills led to his reassignment as Platoon Leader and Executive Officer of D Company, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, 29th Brigade Combat Team; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux and the soldiers of his unit would soon be deployed to the War in Afghanistan, where they would participate heavily in ground combat in Operation Enduring Freedom in the extreme western parts of the country that bordered with one of the wildest and most isolated places on earth, and also one of the biggest sponsors of terrorism in the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux commanded his infantry company as well as an International Security Assistance Force of NATO and a Combined Joint Task Force, conducting over 670 missions, many involving United States Army Special Operations, as he courageously led his forces with the great skill of a true, ground combat commander; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux used his combat assets wisely, running missions as diverse as anti-narcotics operations, short and long range combat patrols, and humanitarian assistance missions, always with Captain Mayeaux exercising all operational authority and tactical control, including close air support and indirect fires capability as he battled the enemy in mortar and rocket attacks, ambushes, roadside bombs, and suicide bombers, on foot and mounted; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux and his troops performed with exceptional bravery and cool thinking under fire, receiving over 75 combat awards for valor and meritorious service during contact with the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux was decorated for his courage, service, and leadership in battle, receiving the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M-device, the NATO Medal, the highly coveted Combat Infantryman Badge, the 82nd Airborne Division Commanding General Award For Excellence In Combat, and the 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Battalion Commander's Award For Excellence In Combat; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux's additional awards include the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with the Numeral 3; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux returned from the Afghanistan Theater of Operations to his post as a Senior Military Science Instructor, Arizona State University Sun Devil Battalion, where he continues to serve with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, 29th Brigade Combat Team; and

WHEREAS, Captain Mayeaux will remain forever and always a member of the Louisiana Senate family because of the many friendships forged here as he studied, drilled, and worked during his stay at the State Capitol, always exemplifying the best that America has to offer and how far you can take it if you stay focused and apply yourself.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its highest commendations and congratulations to United States Army Captain Joseph Mayeaux for extraordinary achievements in politics, education, and the military.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby officially welcome home a native son and hero from a dangerous tour of combat, where he distinguished himself gallantly under fire and brought great pride to all who know him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to United States Army Captain Joseph Mayeaux.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE