

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATORS NEVERS, 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, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Justin R. Mixon upon his death in ground combat operations in Iraq.

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon and his family were originally from Tangipahoa Parish of relocated to Bogalusa when his father was named pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon attended Louisiana Technical College Sullivan Campus and worked as a welder and held various other construction jobs; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon always felt a deep love and great respect for his country and ultimately decided he could serve it best as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon thrived in the tough, military regimen, learning his job as an infantryman and training hard to sharpen the skills that he knew he must develop to perform his duties and accomplish his mission; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon would be sent to Europe and assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment based in Vilseck, Germany, where he would meet and marry his wife, Tia, and where he would become a father to his son, Tony Ray Mixon; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon and his fellow soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment would soon be deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom where their unit would conduct aggressive clearing operations in order to bring increased order and stability to a lawless part of the war zone; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon would become known and respected among the other cavalry dragoons, or mounted infantry, as a good trooper and someone to be counted on when things got tough in the heat of battle; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon and the soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment would accomplish their mission with great success, clearing the enemy from their regimental area of operations and reducing the tribal violence so common when the unit first arrived; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Mixon and the members of his stryker vehicle were in the process of clearing roads and searching for enemy troops on Sunday, June 1, 2008, when they were engaged by hostile forces, and the vehicle in which they were riding was struck by an improvised explosive device which mortally wounded the battle-hardened dragoon outside Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, while the death of Specialist Mixon was an immeasurable loss to his family and friends, it was tempered by the pride they felt for Specialist Mixon and his brave service to his country; and

WHEREAS, now a widow with a small son must continue on without the love and support of a husband and father and the loving presence he brought into their lives.

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 United States Army Specialist Justin R. Mixon for his brave military service and his total sacrifice for his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Specialist Justin R. Mixon.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE