

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROADWATER, HAZEL, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIMBURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HALL, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, OURSO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Chief Warrant Officer 4 George David Strother, of Alexandria, Louisiana, on March 10, 2015.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of Chief Warrant Officer 4 George David Strother, who was killed in dutiful service to his country when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a nighttime exercise in Florida; and

WHEREAS, born on October 2, 1970, to the late George Douglas "Coach" and Sara Nell Vercher Strother, George David Strother grew up with a love of the outdoors; he had a passion for sports, riding four-wheelers, and found joy in songwriting and playing music with his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, heeding the call of his country, George David Strother began a career with the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1988 and served until 2007 and from 2009 until his death; and

WHEREAS, George David Strother was first stationed in Pineville as a utility helicopter repairer and quickly moved up the enlisted ranks; he was promoted to sergeant in 1992; and

WHEREAS, while active in the Louisiana Army National Guard, he served as a team leader for the Youth Challenge Program of Louisiana from 1993 until 1994; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1994, he was appointed to the rank of Warrant Officer 1, and upon completion of the Warrant Officer Basic course, he then concentrated his career path towards helicopter aviation; he advanced to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 in 1997, Chief Warrant Officer 3 in 2007, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 on December 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, throughout his prominent military career, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother logged over two thousand four hundred flight hours, which included over seven hundred combat hours; he was deployed in Iraq for a year and in support of Operation Joint Guardian (KFOR) in Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother served in the Louisiana Army National Guard with great courage and valor as evidenced by his receipt of numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon, and the Combat Badge and Master Aviator Badge; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother left an indelible mark on his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother's passion for his country and community will forever remain in the hearts and minds of his loving wife of twenty years, Melissa Rachal Strother; his son, George David "DJ" Strother, II; his daughter, Chelsie Rachal; his mother; his brother, Bob Strother; his sister, Elizabeth Denell Wolf; and many other family members, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices made by the great men and women who protect and defend the United States and its citizens must always be acknowledged by those who are left behind to honor their memory; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Legislature of Louisiana records for posterity the extraordinary dedication and commitment to his country that Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother displayed throughout his life and in the performance of his military service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its condolences and most heartfelt sorrow to the family of Chief Warrant Officer 4 George David Strother and does hereby acknowledge and record for posterity the unique and special contributions of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Strother to the city of Alexandria, to the state of Louisiana, and to the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Chief Warrant Officer 4 George David Strother.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE