

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY 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 RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of U.S. Navy Seal (Ret.) Mark Daniel Kennedy upon his death while serving as a maritime security professional, fighting piracy off the coast of East Africa.

WHEREAS, Mark Kennedy was a native of Baton Rouge and a 1988 graduate of Central High School where he distinguished himself as an exceptional athlete and a standout on the varsity football team; and

WHEREAS, Mark would continue his education, receiving his degree from Campbell University in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mark's experience in sports would later serve him well when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1995, with a goal to serve his country as a member of the elite U.S. Navy SEALS; and

WHEREAS, Mark employed his athletic prowess into his quest to become one of America's toughest warriors, and used his team experiences in sports to emerge as a leader among his peers, and he successfully completed the Navy's Basic Underwater Demolition School, Class 209, in February 1997, earning the prized Navy Seal Trident Badge; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Chief Petty Officer Mark Kennedy successfully completed the Navy Special Operations Combat Medic Course, further specializing in his job as a Navy SEAL Combat Medic; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Kennedy's highly distinguished career, he would be assigned to SEAL Team 8, then SEAL Team 2, and finally to the Naval Special Operations Medical Institute; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kennedy would deploy on multiple combat tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and many classified missions in other hot spots around the world whenever his country called; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kennedy would earn many awards and decorations for his faithful and brave service for his country, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with V device for valor, and the Combat Action Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Chief Kennedy would retire from active duty in the U.S. Navy and return home to Louisiana, and seeking to continue to serve his country using his skills and knowledge as a warrior, he sought and was given a job in security by Trident Group, a firm owned by former Navy SEALs, that provides maritime industry security support; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kennedy was forty-four years old when he died unexpectedly during the night of February 18, 2014, guarding the vessel, Maersk Alabama that was transporting food aid to East Africa in support of the U.S. government's "Food for Peace" program; and

WHEREAS, his death has left a terrible and empty void in the lives of those he loved, including his wife Julia, son Mason, mother and father Nanda and Dannie Kennedy, and his brother Greg Kennedy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deepest and most profound condolences to the family, friends and military comrades of Mark who now feel the pain of his loss and yet also feel great pride in having known such a great warrior.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mark Kennedy's wife, Julia, and his parents, Nanda and Dannie Kennedy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE