

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY SENATORS PERRY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, 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 Army National Guard Sergeant Mark C. Palmateer on his death in ground combat action in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer was a native of Hughsville, New York, growing up as one of nine children; and

WHEREAS, this large and loving family remained very close, despite the fact that some of the siblings would move and settle as far from home as Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Sgt. Palmateer had a good job with Dunmore Corporation in Brewster, New York, and considered by his boss, Terry Jones, to be an outstanding employee and loved by everyone; and

WHEREAS, a deeply patriotic man, Sgt. Palmateer was forever changed and reshaped by the September 11th terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, after some time of reflection and counseling with his family, Sgt. Palmateer enlisted in the Army National Guard at the age of thirty-three with a passion to serve his country in its fight against terrorism and in the protection of its homeland; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer received intensive training with the equipment and weapons that he knew he must master in order to accomplish the high risk missions that he and his unit had been tasked; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer and his unit did deploy to Afghanistan and participate in its mission to perform reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition in the rugged mountains of northeast Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer and his men of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment were on such mission June 26, 2008, near Forward Operating Base Shank, when they were engaged by a determined enemy force, using rocket propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, and heavy machine gun fire in the furious firefight that followed; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer showed gallantry and courage in his leadership of his men and fought bravely, but he and Sergeant First Class Joseph McKay were both mortally wounded in the action; and

WHEREAS, although Sgt. Palmateer was lost in the smoke, dust, and gunpowder of the battle, he will live on in the hearts and minds of a Louisiana family that loved him, was very proud of him, and will always insure his life is honored; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Palmateer's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and most profound condolences to the family of Army National Guard Sergeant Mark Palmateer for their immeasurable loss and his brave service and sacrifice for his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sgt. Palmateer's sister, Cathy Roule, and his daughter, Stephanie.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE