

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY SENATOR SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Joshua Abram Tomlinson upon his death in combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson was a native of Webster Parish and graduate of Lakeside High School in Sibley, Louisiana, where he will always be remembered for his love of the outdoors and his skills as a hunter and fisherman; and

WHEREAS, he surprised his family and friends when he enlisted in the United States Army about a year after high school and headed off to begin his basic combat and advanced individual training; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson welcomed the challenges of military life, successfully completed his military training, and was proud of his role and the part he was playing in the service of his country; and

WHEREAS, he was assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, V Corps, in Heidelberg, Germany, where he and his wife, Rowena, settled into the routine of overseas, military duty; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson was deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom in September 2009, and was serving as a combat driver and an air defense artilleryman for Headquarters Support Group, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, he was known as a highly skilled, well disciplined, combat leader by his superiors and his fellow soldiers, and his outstanding conduct exemplified the best that America has to offer; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson was escorting several high-ranking military officers who were conducting a site survey in advance of the deployment of a division headquarters on May 18, 2010, when enemy forces attacked his convoy with a vehicle-borne explosive device, driven by a suicide bomber; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson was twenty-four years old when he and four other soldiers were mortally wounded in the savage, terrorist attack on the convoy traveling down Darulaman Road in the northeastern town of Kabul; and

WHEREAS, he will be mourned and deeply missed by his family, friends, and those who served with him, but he will be forever remembered for his courage and gallantry in combat and his sacrifice on behalf of his country in its war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Tomlinson was recognized by his country for his outstanding service and his awards and decorations, which include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with Bar, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deep and profound condolences to the family of United States Army Sergeant Joshua Abram Tomlinson for their immeasurable loss and his ultimate sacrifice in the fight to protect his country from its enemies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Tomlinson's family.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE