

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Marine Corporal Joe Wrightsman.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the loved
3 ones and family of United States Marine Corporal Joe Wrightsman upon his death
4 while in the service of his country.

5 WHEREAS, Joe L. Wrightsman spent his early childhood in Kitsap County,
6 Washington, until the age of thirteen, when he moved with his mother and siblings to
7 Jonesboro, Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, he attended Jonesboro High School where he ran track, cross country
9 and played football for the Tigers, and was a model leader among his peers; and

10 WHEREAS, as far back as his family can remember, Joe had an undying love for the
11 military and wanted to serve his country, so upon graduating from high school, he enlisted
12 in May 2005 and attended infantry school in August, and joined the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine
13 Regiment, based out of Marine Corp Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay in October 2005; and

14 WHEREAS, as a rifleman and team leader of Kilo Company, he served two
15 deployments in Iraq; and

16 WHEREAS, during his distinguished service he was awarded many honors,
17 including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good
18 Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service

1 Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the NATO-International
2 Security Assistance Force Afghanistan Medal; and

3 WHEREAS, in spite of the risks, he loved his job and felt confident with his duties,
4 so when he was asked to volunteer to deploy to Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency
5 operations partnered with Afghan National Security Forces, he was among the first to sign
6 up; and

7 WHEREAS, on July 18, 2010, Corporal Wrightsman and his unit were patrolling
8 with Afghan trainees; upon attempting to cross the fast-flowing Helmand River, one of the
9 trainees was swept away; and

10 WHEREAS, with the kind of bravery that defined Corporal Wrightsman, without
11 knowing how to swim, he plunged into the treacherous water in full protective gear in an
12 effort to save his Afghani counterpart, but was quickly swept away by the powerful river;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, although every type of asset, aircraft, equipment, and personnel were
15 employed to rescue the two men, the Taliban forces were beginning to move in from the
16 north in an effort to capture Corporal Wrightsman's body before the Marines, but were
17 thwarted when the bodies of the two men were rescued two days later; and

18 WHEREAS, Corporal Wrightsman leaves behind many loved ones, including a son,
19 Mcae; his fiancée Kiara; his parents, and nine brothers and eight sisters; and

20 WHEREAS, all who knew and loved Joe Wrightsman were shocked at his untimely
21 death, but were also filled with pride to know that America still breeds men with a bias for
22 action who don't dwell on what they can't do.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby acknowledge United States Marine Corporal Joe L. Wrightsman for his brave
25 service to his country, and does extend its deepest and most profound condolences to his
26 family for their terrible loss.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 family of Corporal Joe L. Wrightsman.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Marionneaux

SR No.

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S.M.C. Corporal Joe Wrightsman.