

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, ERDEY, GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PERRY, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH AND WILLARD-LEWIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, during his distinguished service he was awarded many honors, including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the NATO-International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan Medal; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE