

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

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 United States Army Private First Class Bailey Jerome Swaggart upon his death.

WHEREAS, United States Army PFC Bailey Jerome Swaggart was a native of Monroe, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart joined the U.S. Army in 2013, as an infantryman and took his training at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was a member of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart was deployed with his unit to Kenya, in East Africa, in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa and had been in the country only since January; and

WHEREAS, he and the soldiers of his unit were assigned to the Manda Bay Naval Base when he received his mission orders on February 19, 2015, to guard a nearby air strip, and it was during this mission that PFC Swaggart left the Humvee he was riding in to investigate a small brush fire; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart was bitten by one of Africa's highly venomous snakes such as a puff adder, a cobra, a viper or a black mamba, which are some of the largest and most venomous snakes on earth; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart's leg showed signs of fang marks and a subsequent autopsy confirmed that snake venom was the cause of death for the twenty-five-year-old Louisiana soldier; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart was the only United States soldier to die during his unit's deployment to Kenya as the Regionally Aligned Brigade for Africa; and

WHEREAS, his loss has been devastating to his family, friends, and fellow soldiers as they all try to make some sense of the incident; and

WHEREAS, PFC Swaggart served his country with courage and dedication and was well liked by the people he served with and his awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere and profound condolences to the family of United States Army Private First Class Bailey Jerome Swaggart for their unmeasurable loss and his brave and dedicated service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of United States Army Private First Class Bailey Jerome Swaggart.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE