

1 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Florich was in uniform and acting in his capacity as a
2 crew chief and door gunner in a training exercise that took place during adverse weather
3 conditions on that tragic day; unfortunately, the U.S. Army does not include National Guard
4 training exercises in the definition of "active duty" status and has therefore denied his
5 family's request for Staff Sergeant Florich to be buried in ground interment at Arlington
6 National Cemetery due to eligibility requirements regarding internment and inurnment; and

7 WHEREAS, this Sergeant may not have been in "active duty" status as defined by
8 the U.S. Army, but he was performing his duties and serving his country and should be
9 allowed to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery alongside other servicemen and his
10 grandfather who was a green beret, who also gave his life among many others in an effort
11 to protect this state and country; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana National Guard, Major General Glenn Curtis sent a letter to
13 the secretary of the U.S. Army, John McHugh, asking that the decision be reconsidered.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the Louisiana Congressional delegation to send a formal request that the
16 decision denying the family of Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich the right to bury Staff
17 Sergeant Florich at Arlington National Cemetery, a place of sacred honor, be reconsidered.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be transmitted to each
19 member of the Louisiana Congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 217 Original

2015 Regular Session

Armes

Requests the Louisiana Congressional delegation to send a formal request that the decision denying the family of Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich the right to bury Staff Sergeant Florich at Arlington National Cemetery, a place of sacred honor, be reconsidered.