

4-14-97 Rules + Admin.
4-17-97 Do Pass
FILED APR 10 1997
4-28-97 Adopted

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8
2 BY BARTZ
3 A Senate Resolution recognizing Sergeant Scott Harlan
4 Siefken and his family and requesting federal
5 assistance.

6 WHEREAS, the honorable Sergeant Scott Harlan
7 Siefken served his country for over seven years in
8 both the United States Navy and in the Iowa Army
9 National Guard; and

10 WHEREAS, Sergeant Siefken's duties included active
11 duty in Operation Desert Storm from September 27,
12 1990, until April 13, 1991, as a member of the 1133rd
13 Transportation Company of the Iowa Army National
14 Guard; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Siefken was among over 700,000
16 service personnel who served in the Persian Gulf
17 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

18 WHEREAS, as of March 1996, approximately 80,000
19 veterans had officially registered with the federal
20 Department of Veterans Affairs or with the federal
21 Department of Defense as having developed a chronic
22 illness subsequent to the war and an unknown number of
23 additional veterans have sought private medical care;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, these veterans report a core set of
26 symptoms including sleep problems, mood swings, short-
27 term memory loss, chronic fatigue, rashes or skin
28 problems, muscle and joint pain, headaches, nerve
29 problems, respiratory problems, abdominal pain,
30 cardiovascular problems, sensitivity to bright light,

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1 blurred vision, diarrhea, and additional symptoms; and
2 WHEREAS, based upon the symptoms reported, health
3 care officials are unable to easily diagnose a
4 distinct illness although the symptoms are often
5 collectively referred to as gulf war syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, due to the nature of the symptoms and the
7 lack of a comprehensive definition of gulf war
8 syndrome, affected veterans have been diagnosed with a
9 variety of illnesses found in the general population;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, following an initial diagnosis of a
12 medical problem found in the general population, a
13 veteran may not subsequently be considered to be
14 suffering from a service-related illness or with an
15 undiagnosable condition such as gulf war syndrome; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal government's approach to
17 compensation of veterans of the Persian Gulf War for
18 medical problems is to provide compensation for
19 service-related illness or undiagnosable conditions;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Sergeant Siefken was diagnosed with
22 medical problems existing in the general population
23 thus masking any determination of an undiagnosable
24 illness such as gulf war syndrome and rendering him
25 ineligible for compensation for an undiagnosable
26 illness; and

27 WHEREAS, Sergeant Siefken died in October 1994
28 following a long and painful illness as the result of
29 symptoms which are characteristic of gulf war
30 syndrome; and

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1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Siefken's wife, Lydia, and two
2 children have been denied disability and survivor's
3 compensation despite repeated efforts to receive such
4 compensation; and

5 WHEREAS, the federal government has made little
6 progress in educating, diagnosing, treating, or
7 compensating the veterans of the Persian Gulf War
8 suffering from medical problems; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the state of
10 Iowa recognizes the great sacrifices of veterans of
11 the Persian Gulf War and commends Sergeant Siefken and
12 his fellow veterans on their selfless service to their
13 country; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the United States
15 Congress and the President of the United States are
16 requested to accelerate efforts in defining gulf war
17 syndrome and in educating, diagnosing, treating, and
18 compensating affected veterans of the Persian Gulf War
19 and their families.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the United States
21 Department of Veterans Affairs is requested to review
22 the Siefken family's request for compensation as a
23 request for compensation based upon an undiagnosable
24 illness.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
26 Resolution be sent to the President of the United
27 States, to the Iowa congressional delegation, to the
28 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and to
29 Mrs. Lydia Siefken and her children, in recognition of
30 Sergeant Siefken's service to his state and country

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1 and of the great sacrifice made by the Seifken family.

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