

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 117

1 BY TYMESON, QUIRK, BAUDLER, EICHHORN, HUTTER,  
2 HUSEMAN, CHAMBERS, TJEPKES, ALONS, WATTS, DE BOEF,  
3 FREEMAN, CARROLL, TOMENGA, RAYHONS, BOAL, DIX,  
4 PAULSEN, UPMEYER, DOLECHECK, J.R. VAN FOSSEN,  
5 ELGIN, ROBERTS, ARNOLD, HORBACH, VAN ENGELENHOVEN,  
6 KURTENBACH, SCHICKEL, SANDS, S. OLSON, JENKINS,  
7 MAY, LALK, RASMUSSEN, ANDERSON, SODERBERG, GIPP,  
8 J.K. VAN FOSSEN, LUKAN, JACOBS, HOFFMAN, STRUYK,  
9 GREINER, GRANZOW, D. TAYLOR, PETTENGILL, BERRY,  
10 HUNTER, WENDT, THOMAS, COHOON, DANDEKAR, MERTZ,  
11 BELL, DAVITT, SWAIM, KUHN, PETERSEN, MASCHER,  
12 WINCKLER, JOCHUM, LENSING, SMITH, FREVERT,  
13 D. OLSON, GASKILL, WESSEL-KROESCHELL, SHOMSHOR,  
14 REASONER, SCHUELLER, WHITEAD, SHOULTZ, REICHERT,  
15 WHITAKER, and RAECKER  
16  
17 A Resolution honoring Sergeant Major (Select) Brad Kasal  
18 for his rare courage and inspiring sacrifice in the  
19 Iraq war.  
20 WHEREAS, for over 200 years the Marines of the  
21 United States Marine Corps have been known for their  
22 bravery and devotion to duty; and  
23 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Brad Kasal has proven his  
24 ability and displayed those qualities in serving our  
25 nation in Iraq; and  
26 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Brad Kasal grew up on a  
27 farm near Afton, Iowa, hunted and fished as a kid,  
28 wrestled and played football in high school,  
29 detasseled corn and managed a restaurant to earn  
30 money; and

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1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Brad Kasal knew he wanted  
2 to be a Marine in the eighth grade, joined the Marine  
3 Corps straight out of East Union High School and  
4 excelled in marksmanship and physical fitness in boot  
5 camp; and

6 WHEREAS, in his 20 years of military service,  
7 Sergeant Major Kasal did tours of duty in nearly 50  
8 foreign lands, including Operation Desert Storm in  
9 Kuwait, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and  
10 Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

11 WHEREAS, during the early part of Operation Iraqi  
12 Freedom Sergeant Major Kasal earned a Purple Heart for  
13 wounds he suffered from enemy action but in his own  
14 words, he "gutted it out and kept going like a lot of  
15 Marines do", and he returned to duty and even  
16 volunteered for a second tour of duty because he was a  
17 leader and he felt he belonged with his young Marines;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, on November 13, 2004, during fierce  
20 fighting in Fallujah, Iraq, he vowed to leave no  
21 Marine behind, returned to save three wounded soldiers  
22 trapped in a house crawling with insurgents, received  
23 seven serious wounds from an automatic rifle, received  
24 40 shrapnel wounds from an exploding grenade when he  
25 shielded another Marine with his body and neglected  
26 his own injuries to treat his fellow soldier, lost 60  
27 percent of his body's blood without losing  
28 consciousness, and did all this while guarding the  
29 door and without loosening the grip on his gun; and

30 WHEREAS, as a result of those wounds, Sergeant

1 Major Kasal spent 35 days over the holidays bedridden  
2 and another 30 days at the Navy Hospital in Bethesda,  
3 Maryland, endured 20 surgeries and expects a full  
4 recovery because in his own words, "I'm a Kasal and  
5 we're tough"; and

6 WHEREAS, in recognition for his heroism, sacrifice,  
7 and devotion to duty Sergeant Major Kasal is under  
8 consideration for the Congressional Medal of Honor,  
9 America's highest award for bravery; and

10 WHEREAS, Iowa Families United for Our Troops and  
11 Their Mission stands with steadfast support for  
12 Sergeant Major Kasal and all men and women serving to  
13 protect the freedom for all Americans, for the  
14 families of our service men and women, and for the  
15 families of our fallen heroes; NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
17 That the House of Representatives, on behalf of all 3  
18 million fellow Iowans and Iowa Families United for Our  
19 Troops and Their Mission, honors Sergeant Major Brad  
20 Kasal for his "Iowa Toughness and Tenacity", his  
21 patriotic service to America, his devotion to the  
22 highest principles of military service, and his  
23 undaunted courage under hostile fire; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, an  
25 official copy of this Resolution be prepared for  
26 presentation to Sergeant Kasal so that he knows  
27 without a doubt that Iowans are proud of him and his  
28 fellow troops and look forward to welcoming him back  
29 home when his military service is concluded.

30