
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES TO AWARD SGT. RAFAEL PERALTA THE MEDAL OF HONOR.

1 WHEREAS, Rafael Peralta was born in Mexico City, Mexico, on
2 April 7, 1979, to Rafael and Rosa Peralta, and was the oldest
3 child of four siblings; and
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5 WHEREAS, Rafael Peralta enlisted in the Marine Corps in
6 2000, the day after he got his green card and completed boot
7 camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego; and
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9 WHEREAS, during his training at Camp Pendleton's School of
10 Infantry, Rafael Peralta earned the military specialty 0311,
11 also known as Marine Rifleman, and was then issued orders to the
12 3rd Marines Regiment stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in
13 Kaneohe; and
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15 WHEREAS, his battalion redeployed to Iraq's Anbar Province
16 in 2004 as part of Operation Phantom Fury to battle insurgents
17 in their stronghold of Fallujah; and
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19 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2004, while assisting one of his
20 rifle platoon's squads to clear a house of terrorists and
21 insurgents, Sgt. Peralta was mortally wounded when he smothered
22 an enemy grenade with his body to protect the soldiers in his
23 platoon, and is credited for saving the lives of six of his
24 fellow Marines; and
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26 WHEREAS, for Sgt. Peralta's heroic actions, he was awarded
27 the Purple Heart and Navy Cross; and



1 WHEREAS, during his military career, he was also awarded
2 the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq
3 Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Sea Service
4 Deployment Ribbon; and

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6 WHEREAS, upon hearing of Sgt. Peralta's bravery, in late
7 2004, U.S. Representative Bob Fliner wrote a letter to then
8 Marine Corp Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee recommending Sgt.
9 Rafael Peralta for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest
10 military award for valor in action against an enemy force that
11 can be bestowed upon an individual serving the U.S. armed
12 forces; and

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14 WHEREAS, Defense Secretary Robert Gates convened a five-
15 member board, which on September 18, 2008, concluded that Sgt.
16 Rafael Peralta's actions did not warrant the Medal of Honor,
17 citing that the evidence did not meet the exacting "no doubt"
18 standard necessary to support the awarding of the nation's
19 highest military award; and

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21 WHEREAS, in November 2008, Defense Secretary Robert Gates
22 rejected a request by several members of Congress to upgrade the
23 valor award for Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta and announced his
24 decision not to conduct further reviews into Sgt. Peralta's
25 actions; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature strongly urges
30 the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States
31 to reconsider their decisions and award Sgt. Rafael Peralta the
32 Medal of Honor for his bravery in sacrificing his life for his
33 fellow soldiers; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
37 United States, the Secretary of Defense, each member of Hawaii's
38 Congressional delegation, the mother of Sgt. Rafael Peralta, and
39 the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of the
40 United States Congress.

