
HOUSE 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
4

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
8

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
14

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
18

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, Sergeant Peralta was mortally wounded when he
22 smothered an enemy grenade with his body to protect the soldiers
23 in his platoon, and is credited for saving the lives of six of
24 his fellow Marines; and
25

26 WHEREAS, for Sgt. Peralta's heroic actions, he was awarded
27 the Purple Heart and Navy Cross; and
28

29 WHEREAS, during his military career, he was also awarded
30 the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq
31 Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Sea Service
32 Deployment Ribbon; and
33



1 WHEREAS, upon hearing of Sgt. Peralta's bravery, in late
2 2004, U.S. Representative Bob Fliner wrote a letter to then
3 Marine Corp Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee recommending Rafael
4 Peralta for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military
5 award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be
6 bestowed upon an individual serving the U.S. armed forces; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Defense Secretary Robert Gates convened a five-
9 member board, which on September 18, 2008, concluded that Sgt.
10 Rafael Peralta's actions did not warrant the medal of Honor,
11 citing that the evidence did not meet the exacting 'no doubt'
12 standard necessary to support awarding the nation's highest
13 military award; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in November 2008, Defense Secretary Robert Gates
16 rejected a request by several members of Congress to upgrade the
17 valor award for Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta and announced his
18 decision not to conduct further reviews into Sgt. Peralta's
19 actions; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
23 2009, strongly urges the Secretary of Defense and the President
24 of the United States to reconsider their decisions and award
25 Sergeant Rafael Peralta the Medal of Honor for his bravery in
26 sacrificing his life for his fellow soldiers; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States
30 of America, the Secretary of Defense, Rafael Peralta's Mother,
31 and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of the
32 United States Congress.

