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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Honoring the service and sacrifice of the members of the United States
Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania) submitted the
following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Honoring the service and sacrifice of the members of the
United States Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom
and Operation New Dawn.

Whereas, in Public Law 107–243 (H.J. Res 114 of the 107th
Congress), the House of Representatives and the Senate
authorized the President to use the United States Armed
Forces as the President determined to be necessary and
appropriate against Iraq;

Whereas on March 19, 2003, the United States Armed
Forces began military operations in Iraq, with the objec-
tive of disarming and removing Saddam Hussein and his
regime;

Whereas on April 9, 2003, with the removal of a statue of Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square in Baghdad by members of the United States Armed Forces and Iraqi civilians, the United States Armed Forces and coalition forces effectively neutralized the Iraqi Army just three weeks after ground operations began;

Whereas on July 22, 2003, after refusing to surrender, Saddam Hussein's sons Uday Hussein and Qusay Hussein were killed in a firefight with members of the United States Armed Forces in Mosul;

Whereas on December 13, 2003, acting on information provided through coordinated intelligence activity, members of the United States Armed Forces captured Saddam Hussein in Tikrit;

Whereas in 2004, in direct response to an insurgent uprising in Fallujah, approximately 15,000 members of the United States Armed Forces and coalition forces entered the insurgent stronghold and reclaimed the city;

Whereas on October 15, 2005, the new Constitution of Iraq was ratified and two months later the first election for the Iraqi Council of Representatives was facilitated;

Whereas on June 7, 2006, in a significant blow to the insurgent campaign, a United States Air Force airstrike near Baquba killed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq;

Whereas on January 10, 2007, with the number of members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq totaling approximately 140,000, a surge of 21,000 American troops was announced under the banner of "A New Way Forward";

Whereas on February 10, 2007, General David H. Petraeus, the principal author of United States counter insurgency strategy, is named commander of Multinational Forces-Iraq;

Whereas on June 1, 2007, in what was called the “The Awakening,” Sunni tribe members join the United States Armed Forces and coalition forces in targeting militants in Anbar Province and other locations, leading to a significant decrease in insurgent violence;

Whereas on September 1, 2008, the United States Armed Forces in Anbar Province formally transferred security responsibilities to Iraqi forces;

Whereas on February 1, 2009, reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq began;

Whereas on June 30, 2009, the United States Armed Forces withdrew from Baghdad and other cities in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and the government of Iraq;

Whereas on March 7, 2010, with the support of the United States Armed Forces and coalition forces, Iraqi parliamentary elections are held under the control of Iraqi security forces, with voter turnout registering above 60 percent;

Whereas in September 2010, the remaining combat forces of the United States Armed Forces departed from Iraq, prompting the redesignation of the contingency operation from Operation Iraq Freedom to Operation New Dawn;

Whereas on December 18, 2011, all remaining members of the United States Armed Forces departed from Iraq;

Whereas between March 2003 and December 2011, more than 1.5 million members of the United States Armed Forces served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn;

Whereas 4,486 members of the United States Armed Forces made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn and more than 32,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded during almost nine years of military operations in Iraq;

Whereas five Medals of Honor, the highest United States award for military valor, were awarded for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn;

Whereas at least 327 Silver Stars, 21 Navy Crosses, and 15 Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) extends its gratitude to the more than 1.5
3 million members of the United States Armed Forces,
4 from both the regular and reserve components of the
5 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,
6 and Merchant Marine, who served in Operation Iraqi
7 Freedom and Operation New Dawn;

8 (2) recognizes the success of the United States
9 Armed Forces in operations against a dangerous and
10 determined enemy;

1 (3) recognizes the tremendous personal sacrifice
2 of the members of the United States Armed Forces
3 who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Oper-
4 ation New Dawn, many of whom were committed to
5 multiple deployments away from loved ones, and the
6 contributions of military families on the home front;

7 (4) pays tribute to the 4,486 members of the
8 United States Armed Forces who lost their lives in
9 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn;
10 and

11 (5) commits itself to honoring the memory of
12 these heroes for their courage and sacrifice.