



HR0215

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor United States Marine Corps
4 Corporal John M. Peck for his bravery and sacrifice in defense
5 of our nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Cpl. John Peck was born on September 13, 1985 in
7 Daytona Beach, Florida; he moved to Antioch in September of
8 2002 and graduated from Antioch High School in 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, Cpl. John Peck enlisted in the United States
10 Marine Corps in September of 2005; in September of 2005, he
11 reported to Delta Company of the 1st Recruit Training
12 Battalion; after completing recruit training, he reported to
13 Delta Company at the School of Infantry in San Diego,
14 California; he subsequently reported to 3rd Battalion, 1st
15 Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division and became a Forward
16 Observer for the 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company; in
17 September of 2006, he was detached from Weapons Company to Lima
18 Company, Weapons Platoon; and

19 WHEREAS, In August 2007, while deployed in Al Anbar, Iraq,
20 Cpl. John Peck's convoy took sniper fire from an elevated
21 position; while trying to take shelter, his vehicle sustained
22 damage from an improvised explosive device; he received a

1 traumatic brain injury from the explosion, for which he
2 received the first of two Purple Hearts; after being shipped to
3 Lundstruhl, Germany, for medical attention, he was sent back to
4 the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Cpl. John Peck was promoted to his current rank
6 while serving with the Remain Behind Element of the 3rd
7 Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division; in
8 April 2009, Corporal Peck re-enlisted for an additional four
9 years of service under the same MOS; during this time, he
10 received a Meritorious Mast for his work at the Marine Fitness
11 Center; and

12 WHEREAS, In December of 2009, Cpl. John Peck decided to
13 return to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment of the 1st
14 Marine Division to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan; the
15 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines were eventually deployed to
16 Afghanistan on April 19, 2010; on May 24, 2010, while on a
17 dismounted patrol, Cpl. Peck stepped on an improvised explosive
18 device; he immediately lost both of his legs and his right arm
19 and received a "de-gloving injury" to his left arm; he was
20 subsequently airlifted to Lundstruhl, Germany, where doctors
21 performed an arterial graft to fix damage to the left artery in
22 his left wrist and placed him under medical sedation; on May
23 28, 2010, as he was being airlifted to the National Naval
24 Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, the arterial graft in his

1 left wrist burst open, causing a dangerous drop in blood
2 pressure, and the flight was diverted to Newfoundland; after
3 emergency surgery, he was airlifted from Newfoundland to
4 Bethesda on May 30, 2010; while at Bethesda, doctors discovered
5 that he had Aspergillus in all four of his extremities, his
6 abdomen, and his blood, a condition that normally proves fatal;
7 after numerous surgeries and transfusions, he was transferred
8 to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to start undergoing physical
9 therapy, occupational therapy, and aquatic therapy on August
10 10, 2010; he underwent in-patient care until February 28, 2011,
11 when his mother arrived to be his non-medical assistant; and

12 WHEREAS, Cpl. John Peck has received numerous medals and
13 commendations for his meritorious service, including two
14 Purple Hearts, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Iraq Companion
15 Medals, two Sea Services Metals, the Afghanistan Companion
16 Medal, the Good Conduct Metal, the NATO Metal, and the
17 Meritorious Mast, as well as numerous letters of appreciation
18 and numerous challenge coins; and

19 WHEREAS, Cpl. John Peck serves as a model of hard work,
20 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
21 Illinois; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
23 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we honor United States Marine Corps Corporal John M. Peck for
2 his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Cpl. John Peck as a symbol of our esteem and
6 respect.