



HR0305

LRB097 11648 GRL 54674 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate United States Air
4 National Guard Staff Sergeant Russel W. Harp for winning the
5 2010 Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, SSgt. Russel Harp was born in Paducah, Kentucky,
8 on January 27, 1980; he attended Century High School in Ullin,
9 where he graduated as class vice president in May of 1998;
10 during high school, he received letters each year in basketball
11 and baseball, as well as all-conference honors during his
12 junior and senior years in both sports; he also earned the Mr.
13 Centurion award; after graduating from high school, he attended
14 Shawnee Community College; he recently earned his associate's
15 degree from the Community College of the Air Force and his
16 bachelor's degree in business management from Mid-Continent
17 University; he is currently pursuing a master's degree in human
18 relations at Mid-Continent University; and

19 WHEREAS, After attending Shawnee Community College, SSgt.
20 Russel Harp enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard as a
21 combat engineer, specializing in explosives/demolition; he
22 served 6 years with the 1140th Engineer Battalion in Cape
23 Girardeau, Missouri; as a member of the 1140th, he was deployed

1 to Iraq for his first tour overseas and spent 13 months in
2 theater during his deployment; and

3 WHEREAS, Six months after his enlistment with the Army
4 National Guard had been fulfilled, SSgt. Russel Harp enlisted
5 in the Illinois Air National Guard and became a member of the
6 126th Civil Engineering Fire Emergency Services Department at
7 Scott Air Force Base; he received top graduate honors from the
8 Louis F. Garland Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base in
9 Texas by leading his classmates during practical evaluations,
10 as well as having the highest combined test scores on written
11 evaluations; upon arriving at Scott AFB, he quickly progressed
12 from a basic firefighter trainee to obtaining his 7-level
13 upgrade in his career field; and

14 WHEREAS, SSgt. Russel Harp has been the recipient of
15 numerous military awards for his service, including the
16 National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the
17 Army Commendation Medal, 2 Army Achievement Medals, and the
18 Army Good Conduct Medal; and

19 WHEREAS, SSgt. Russel Harp is currently employed with the
20 Illinois Department of Corrections at the Dixon Springs Impact
21 Incarceration Program as a correctional officer/drill
22 instructor at the paramilitary boot camp; he supervises a GED
23 tutoring program in an effort to help inmates at Dixon Springs

1 earn their GED; he is also a member of the audit team, the
2 transfer team, and the tactical team, as well as the primary
3 minor contraband custodian and the primary contract monitor;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, SSgt. Russel Harp volunteers at Bethel's Martial
6 Arts Academy, where he helps instruct children between the ages
7 of 4-16 in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu; he is also a lifetime member of
8 the VFW in Cairo, Illinois and a member of the Masonic Lodge in
9 Vienna, Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, SSgt. Russel Harp and his loving wife, Shonda
11 Harp, have 2 daughters, Toni and Tyli; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate United States Air National Guard Staff Sergeant
15 Russel W. Harp for winning the 2010 Outstanding
16 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award and wish him
17 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to SSgt. Russel Harp as a symbol of our esteem and
21 respect.