



HR1202

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, There are a significant number of non-citizen  
3 veterans of foreign wars, including World War II, the Korean  
4 War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the  
5 Afghanistan War, who have been removed from the United States;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, These veterans currently live in terrible and  
8 abject conditions after having served in the Armed Services of  
9 the United States; and

10           WHEREAS, Several of these veterans have asked for support  
11 in obtaining reentry into the United States to be with their  
12 families and their children who are U.S. citizens; and

13           WHEREAS, Non-citizens compose a significant portion of the  
14 Armed Forces, enlisting more than 8,000 persons annually; and

15           WHEREAS, According to the Department of Defense, more than  
16 65,000 non-citizen immigrants were serving in the U.S. Armed  
17 Forces as of 2008 - accounting for at least 5% of the total  
18 active-duty personnel; and

19           WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform Act of 1996 broadened the  
20 criteria for removable offenses to include shoplifting,

1 misdemeanor drug offenses, and other minor offenses, allowing  
2 the Department of Homeland Security to quietly deport veterans  
3 who have fallen on hard times; and

4 WHEREAS, According to Banished Veterans, a support group  
5 for deported veterans, there are currently 3,000 veterans in  
6 immigration detention centers or in removal proceedings at any  
7 given time; and

8 WHEREAS, Veterans that have been deported do not have  
9 access to Veterans Affairs benefits or other benefits designed  
10 for veterans; and

11 WHEREAS, The nation owes these veterans adequate support  
12 and rehabilitation equal to that of veterans with full  
13 citizenship; and

14 WHEREAS, The non-citizen parents, spouses, and children of  
15 veterans and service men and women who have been killed during  
16 active duty still face risk of deportation; and

17 WHEREAS, These veteran family members also need adequate  
18 rehabilitation and mental health resources in order to cope  
19 with extreme hardship and loss that is a result of war; and

20 WHEREAS, After having served time for their crimes in the

1 criminal justice system, non-citizen veterans are almost  
2 immediately dropped at the doorsteps of their country of birth  
3 - with no resources, no contacts and, at times, no knowledge of  
4 the language, resulting in compounded punishment; and

5 WHEREAS, These valiant veterans are solely allowed reentry  
6 into the United States posthumously for their burial in a U.S.  
7 military cemetery; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
10 recognize the plight of these veterans and urge the United  
11 States Congress and the President of the United States to  
12 provide these veterans and their families the honors and  
13 benefits that they have earned; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to President Barack Obama, U.S. Speaker of the House  
16 Paul Ryan, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.