HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6046

A RESOLUTION honoring and supporting United States veterans who served in Honduras between 1981 and 1992 and urging the United States Congress to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for such service.

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is a federal military decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who participate in designated operations in foreign territories under conditions that involve significant risk, including exposure to hostile action or imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, Between 1981 and 1992, members of the United States Armed Forces were deployed to Honduras in support of operations intended to promote regional stability and deter the expansion of communism in Central America; and

WHEREAS, During this period, these members of the United States Armed Forces maintained a sustained presence in Honduras, conducting training exercises, supporting host nation forces and carrying out missions in furtherance of national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, These activities contributed to regional security and served as a deterrent to instability in Central America; and

WHEREAS, Service members deployed to Honduras during this period operated in hazardous and austere environments, including rigorous training and operational activities involving live-fire exercises, exposure to hostile fire and the risk of imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, The dangerous nature of these activities is evidenced by the awarding of 47 Purple Hearts, two Prisoner of War Medals and four Air Medals to members of the Armed Forces who served in Honduras between 1981 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, The circumstances under which these individuals served are consistent with those recognized for designation as expeditionary operations and warrant consideration for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the United States Congress and President Bill Clinton authorized the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to members of the Armed Forces who served in El Salvador between 1981 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, Many of the personnel who supported operations in El Salvador during this period were stationed in Honduras and conducted missions from that location, yet those who served in Honduras were not made eligible for the same award; and

WHEREAS, This omission has resulted in an inequity in the recognition of service members who operated under similar circumstances in the same region during the same period; and

WHEREAS, Veterans service organizations and multiple states have adopted or are considering measures urging Congress to acknowledge these contributions and provide appropriate recognition to those veterans; and

WHEREAS, Kansas has a strong interest in recognizing the sacrifice of veterans and supporting efforts to ensure that those who served under hazardous conditions receive fair and equitable recognition for their contributions: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we honor and commend the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Honduras between 1981 and 1992 for their courage, sacrifice and commitment to the defense of freedom and regional stability; and

Be it further resolved: That we respectfully urge the United States Congress to authorize the awarding of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to the veterans who served in Honduras during that period, recognizing that such duty occurred under conditions consistent with expeditionary operations and providing long-overdue and equitable recognition.

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Representative Butler.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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Speaker of the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House.