



HR1077

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona was born on  
3 August 29, 1936, and during the 81 years since that time, he  
4 has been a leader among his fellow Americans; and

5           WHEREAS, Senator McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone;  
6 his family was in the U.S. Navy; his father John S. "Jack"  
7 McCain Jr. was an honored naval officer who would eventually  
8 rise to the rank of Commander-in-Chief Pacific Command  
9 (CINCPAC); after growing up in a variety of locations  
10 throughout North America and the Pacific Ocean, he was admitted  
11 to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1954; and

12           WHEREAS, As a midshipman, Senator McCain turned his eyes  
13 towards the flying service; after his commissioning as a naval  
14 ensign, he trained at Naval Air Station Pensacola and at Naval  
15 Air Station Corpus Christi; as an aircraft carrier flier, he  
16 served during the Cuban missile crisis and, continuing his rise  
17 in the service, was assigned flight-instruction duties at Naval  
18 Air Station Meridian (Mississippi); and

19           WHEREAS, With the intensification of the Vietnam War,  
20 Senator McCain requested reassignment to combat duty and, in  
21 1967, was assigned to fly A-4E Skyhawk attack jets based on the  
22 carrier U.S.S. Forrestal and then the U.S.S. Oriskany; the

1 Forrestal and Oriskany were assigned to Gulf of Tonkin duties;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, On October 26, 1967, while engaged in combat over  
4 Hanoi, Senator McCain's Skyhawk was downed by Soviet/North  
5 Vietnamese anti-aircraft missile fire; severely injured upon  
6 his ejection from the doomed plane, he was immediately  
7 captured, beaten, and bayoneted by his captors, and confined as  
8 a prisoner of war; and

9 WHEREAS, In the "Hanoi Hilton" and other places of  
10 imprisonment, Senator McCain was subjected to torture and  
11 prolonged solitary confinement; after learning that their  
12 captive was the son of a high-ranking U.S. admiral, in June of  
13 1968 the North Vietnamese told McCain that he was free to  
14 return to the United States; suspecting that this was a  
15 propaganda ploy intended to show American elitism in action,  
16 and in obedience to the United States Code of Conduct to be  
17 followed by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are  
18 prisoners of war, McCain stated to his captors that he would  
19 not leave captivity prior to his fellow prisoners; upon making  
20 this statement, he was returned to solitary confinement, which  
21 he would endure for a total of approximately two years; and

22 WHEREAS, Although Vietnam War peace negotiations began in  
23 1969, a cease-fire agreement proved elusive, partly because of

1 prolonged disputes concerning the status of prisoners of war;  
2 during the four-year period from 1969 into 1973, Americans  
3 carried the prisoners of the Vietnamese War in their prayers  
4 and thoughts; the Paris Peace Accords were finally signed in  
5 January of 1973, and Senator McCain was released on March 14,  
6 1973, after five and a half years of captivity, returning to  
7 active U.S. Navy service; and

8 WHEREAS, After achieving promotion to the rank of naval  
9 captain and commanding a squadron of his fellow fliers, Senator  
10 McCain retired from the U.S. Navy in April of 1981 with a  
11 determination to enter politics; he moved to Phoenix, the home  
12 city of his wife, Cindy Lou Hensley, and was elected to the  
13 U.S. House of Representatives as a congressman from Arizona in  
14 1982, where he served for four years; he won election to the  
15 U.S. Senate in 1986; and

16 WHEREAS, As a lawmaker, Senator McCain has specialized in  
17 issues of U.S. defense and national security, rising to the  
18 rank of chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee;  
19 although he has compiled a strongly conservative voting record  
20 in the U.S. Senate, he has developed ties of friendship with  
21 lawmakers from both parties; and

22 WHEREAS, In September of 2008, the Republican Party  
23 nominated Senator McCain as their nominee for President of the

1 United States; McCain won the votes of more than 59.9 million  
2 Americans, which was a plurality of the vote in 22 of the 50  
3 states; and

4 WHEREAS, After the 2008 presidential election, Senator  
5 McCain returned to lawmaking and was elected to two additional  
6 terms in the U.S. Senate; he served actively as a drafter of  
7 bills and appropriations, and as a committee spokesman and  
8 chairman, until his affliction in 2017 with severe illness; the  
9 story of John McCain is now familiar to all Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator McCain is the maverick; he is truly the  
11 independent statesman, the patriot which we all know, and the  
12 hero we all honor; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 commend Navy Captain and United States Senator John McCain for  
16 his service, in war and in peace, to the United States of  
17 America; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we declare the life and congressional  
19 service of Senator McCain to be an inspiration to all  
20 Americans; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to Senator John McCain and his family at his home in  
2 Arizona and all members of the Illinois Congressional  
3 Delegation.