



HR0633

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Army Chief Warrant
4 Officer 4 Walter Brian Harris of Glen Carbon on being awarded
5 the Soldier's Medal; and

6 WHEREAS, Walter Harris was presented with the Soldier's
7 Medal for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict
8 with an armed enemy on December 2, 2006, while responding to a
9 family emergency; without regard for his own safety and
10 well-being, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Harris entered a poisonous
11 house that had 8 times the lethal limit of carbon monoxide in
12 it after learning that several family members were trapped
13 inside; he rescued his semi-conscious father-in-law and
14 treated him for shock, and re-entered the house to carry out
15 the body of his deceased mother-in-law before succumbing to
16 carbon monoxide poisoning himself; and

17 WHEREAS, The courage and heroic action of Walter Harris are
18 in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and
19 reflect well on him, the Defense Information Systems Agency,
20 and the United States Army; and

21 WHEREAS, Walter Harris is the first Army Reservist to
22 receive the Soldier's Medal and only the sixth person in the

1 State's history to receive the Soldier's Medal; and

2 WHEREAS, The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of
3 the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign
4 nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the
5 United States, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism not
6 involving actual conflict with an enemy; and

7 WHEREAS, During his service, Walter Harris has also been
8 honored with the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service
9 Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement,
10 Army Achievement Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good
11 Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 6
12 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest
13 Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal,
14 Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal,
15 Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces
16 Reserve Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army
17 Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve
18 Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation
19 Medal-Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait, Joint
20 Meritorious Unit Award with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Army
21 Meritorious Unit Commendation; and

22 WHEREAS, Walter Harris serves as a model example of
23 military service for the people of the State of Illinois;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we congratulate Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Walter Brian
5 Harris on being awarded the Soldier's Medal and wish him the
6 best in his future endeavors; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Walter Brian Harris
9 as a symbol of our respect and esteem.