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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Capt. William Albracht served as the senior ground commander at Firebase Kate, a fortified position in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam near the Cambodian border, and was tasked with interdicting North Vietnamese Army (NVA) movements along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and restricting the enemy's ability to attack Special Forces camps in the area; by late October 1969, about 5,000 NVA troops had surrounded the firebase and were preparing to attack; Capt. Albracht and fellow Special Forces soldier Sgt. Daniel Pierelli prepared the troops for the inevitable battle, which finally began on October 28, 1969; and

12

WHEREAS, The NVA began its siege of Firebase Kate on the night of October 28, when a Civilian Irregular Defense Group patrol ran into the forward elements of an NVA regiment; the NVA troops, who outnumbered Kate's defenders by about 40 to one, launched their first assault around 11:30 the next morning; NVA troops mercilessly attacked Firebase Kate with small arms fire, mortars, artillery, and B-40 rockets, but Kate's defenders drove them off; despite the valiant efforts of the defenders at Kate, NVA attacks were slowly wearing them down; Capt. William Albracht, wounded during the attack on October 29, chose to stay at Kate to lead the remaining besieged troops during the assaults; and

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1 WHEREAS, Seeing that his position was untenable, Capt.
2 William Albracht radioed Special Forces Operations and
3 requested permission to escape from Firebase Kate with his
4 soldiers; after obtaining permission from his superiors, he
5 decided to make his escape on November 1; Capt. Albracht and
6 Sgt. Pierelli drew up an escape-and-evasion plan, arranged for
7 gunships to protect them as they left Kate, and explained
8 carefully to the troops how they would link up with a Special
9 Forces detachment waiting for them in a concealed position
10 about 3 miles away; and

11 WHEREAS, After sabotaging everything at the base that could
12 be used by the NVA, Capt. William Albracht and his soldiers
13 began their trek at about 10 P.M. on November 1, 1969, knowing
14 that the NVA would be looking for them and would not take
15 prisoners; the NVA immediately lit the area with flares as the
16 men fled down the North Slope, through a small gap in the wood
17 line, and up the side of Ambush Hill; after dodging NVA patrols
18 and ambushes, Capt. Albracht and his men reached Mike Force at
19 3 A.M. on November 2, 1969; During the final evacuation, Capt.
20 Albracht wound up crossing the open field three times, on each
21 occasion exposing himself to the enemy, to make sure his men
22 were safe; and

23 WHEREAS, Capt. William Albracht has been the recipient of 3
24 Silver Stars, 3 Purple Hearts, 5 Bronze Stars (3 for valor), 2

1 Air Medals (one for valor), and an Army Commendation Medal (for
2 valor), but has been denied the Medal of Honor for his
3 courageous acts at Firebase Kate; and

4 WHEREAS, The members of this body believe that the
5 gallantry displayed by William Albracht on those fateful days
6 is worthy of this nation's greatest military honor; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we urge Congress and the President to upgrade the Silver Star
11 bestowed to former United States Army Special Forces Captain
12 William L. Albracht for his actions at Firebase Kate on October
13 28 - November 2, 1969 to the Medal of Honor; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to the President, the Speaker and Minority Leader of
16 the United States House of Representatives, and the Majority
17 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate.