

HR 9023

2014

House Resolution

A resolution honoring retired Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris, who will receive the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014.

WHEREAS, current Florida resident and retired Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris was born in Oklahoma on January 7, 1942, entered the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1959, became a member of the United States Army Special Forces in 1961, and was sent on the first of two volunteer deployments to Vietnam in 1969, and

WHEREAS, on the morning of September 17, 1969, while on a mission commanding the Third Company, Third Battalion of the IV Mobile Strike Force near Chi Lang, Vietnam, then-Staff Sergeant Morris learned that a fellow soldier had been killed in enemy territory, and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Morris reorganized the members of his strike force and, while under hostile fire, began advancing into enemy territory to recover the body of their fellow soldier, and

WHEREAS, after the two men accompanying him in this endeavor were wounded, Staff Sergeant Morris not only braved danger to escort them back across friendly lines, but then, with determination, disregarded his personal safety and advanced again into enemy territory, and

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26 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Morris located the fallen soldier,
27 administered the last rites, and, under a barrage of enemy fire,
28 was shot three times—once each through the chest, arm, and hand—
29 but was ultimately successful in recovering his compatriot's
30 body and returning it to safety, and

31 WHEREAS, on March 18, 2014, retired Sergeant First Class
32 Melvin Morris, who was wounded while selflessly ignoring his own
33 well-being to ensure that a fallen comrade was not left behind,
34 will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for
35 valor in combat, NOW, THEREFORE,

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37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 Florida:

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40 That retired Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris is
41 commended for his outstanding bravery, heroism beyond the call
42 of duty, and remarkable dedication to his country and is
43 congratulated on receiving the Medal of Honor.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
45 presented to retired Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris, his
46 wife, Mary, and their family as a tangible token of the
47 sentiments expressed herein.