STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 12

By: Williamson and Mazzei of the Senate

and

Sullivan of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution praising the courage of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski, USMC (Ret.); designating Saturday, March 26, 2005, "Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski Day" in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Robert J. Modrzejewski was born on July 3, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from Pulaski High School in 1953 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Modrzejewski was a member of the Platoon Leaders Class while in college. Upon his graduation he was commissioned a Marine Corps Reserve second lieutenant in June 1957 and was integrated into the Regular Marines in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski on July 15, 1966, during Operation Hastings, was commander of Company K (Kilo), Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, which was landed in an enemy-infested jungle to establish a blocking position at a major enemy trail network. Shortly after landing, the company encountered a reinforced enemy platoon in a well-organized defensive position. Captain Modrzejewski led his men in a successful seizure of the enemy redoubt, which contained large quantities of ammunition and supplies. That evening, a numerically superior enemy force counterattacked in an effort to retake the vital supply area,

setting off a pattern of fighting for the next two and one-half days; and

WHEREAS, Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski and his unit were repeatedly assaulted in overwhelming numbers, but each time the enemy was repulsed by the Marines. The second night the enemy struck, and Captain Modrzejewski was wounded in intensive action which was fought at close quarters. Although exposed by enemy fire, and despite painful wounds, he crawled 200 meters to provide critically needed ammunition to an exposed element of his command. Captain Modrzejewski was constantly present wherever the fighting was heaviest, despite numerous casualties, a dwindling supply of ammunition, and the knowledge that they were surrounded. He skillfully directed artillery fire to within a few meters of his position and courageously inspired the efforts of his company in repelling the aggressive enemy attack; and

WHEREAS, Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski and Kilo Company was again attacked on July 18, 1966. Although his unit was vastly outnumbered and weakened by previous fight, Captain Modrzejewski reorganized his men and fought to overcome the vicious enemy onslaught. Again he called in air and artillery strikes at close range and with the bold and determined fighting of the men of Company K, repulsed the fanatical attack of the larger Vietnamese force; and

WHEREAS, Captain Robert J. Modrzejewski, in three hours of "jungle hell" and with some 90 Marines, turned back a human-wave assault by 1,000 North Vietnamese regulars. The North Vietnamese used mortars, machine guns, hand grenades, and small arms fire in their unsuccessful attempt to wipe out the two platoons of the Kilo Company. The two platoons reached safety only after heavy artillery fire, the arrival of two companies of fellow Marines, and U.S. aircraft dumping flaming napalm within 50 feet of their position; and

WHEREAS, Major Robert J. Modrzejewski, for his unparalleled personal heroism and indomitable leadership which inspired his men to a significant victory over the enemy force, received the Medal of Honor from President Lyndon B. Johnson in ceremonies held at the White House on March 12, 1968. Colonel Modrzejewski retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in August 1986; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Colonel Modrzejewski considers himself a caretaker of the Medal of Honor which he wears for the men of Company K and those who gave their life for their country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises the courage of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski, USMC (Ret.), and welcomes him to the great State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature designates Saturday, March 26, 2005, "Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this bill be distributed to Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski, USMC (Ret.), at Veterans Park in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 26, 2005, as part of the Medal of Honor Ceremony "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty".

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