



1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41

May 2, 2000 - Introduced by Representatives WAUKAU, BALOW, SHERMAN, KRUG, TURNER, RICHARDS, HASENOHRL, REYNOLDS, J. LEHMAN, BERCEAU, KREUSER, SINICKI, RILEY, BOCK, WOOD, WASSERMAN, STASKUNAS, COGGS, STEINBRINK, MILLER, SCHNEIDER, HEBL, HAHN, KEDZIE, SKINDRUD, FREESE, MUSSER, PLOUFF, JENSEN, LADWIG, GROTHMAN and AINSWORTH. Referred to calendar.

1 **Relating to:** commemorating the achievements and contributions of Wisconsin's 6
2 Vietnam veterans who were awarded the Medal of Honor.

3 Whereas, the Medal of Honor is the highest recognition given by this nation to
4 members of the U.S. armed forces; and

5 Whereas, of the 165,400 Wisconsin men and women who served their nation
6 during the Vietnam War, only 6 were recognized with this honor; and

7 Whereas, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War;
8 and

9 Whereas, Gary Wetzel was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in 1968
10 when, according to his citation, he "distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry
11 and intrepidity at the risk of his life"; and

12 Whereas, Harold Fritz was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in 1969
13 when, according to his citation, he "armed only with a pistol and bayonet, led a small
14 group of his men in a fierce and daring charge which routed the attackers and
15 inflicted heavy casualties"; and

1 Whereas, Kenneth Stumpf was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in
2 1967 when he brought 3 wounded men to safety while under fire and then destroyed
3 an enemy bunker; and

4 Whereas, Robert Modrzejewski was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions
5 in 1966 when he helped capture a large cache of enemy supplies and then defended
6 the position against a much larger enemy force; and

7 Whereas, Lance Sijan was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in 1967
8 when he was shot down over enemy territory, evaded capture for many weeks,
9 refused to provide information to his captors once he was captured despite torture
10 and other deprivations, and died in captivity in 1968; and

11 Whereas, Leslie Bellrichard was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions
12 in 1967 when he threw himself on a live grenade in his foxhole during intense fighting
13 with the enemy, thus sacrificing his life to save the lives of his fellow soldiers; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin assembly
16 salute Wisconsin's 6 Vietnam War Medal of Honor awardees for their bravery and
17 service to their nation; and, be it further

18 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution
19 to Gary Wetzell, Harold Fritz, Kenneth Stumpf, Robert Modrzejewski and the
20 families of Lance Sijan and Leslie Bellrichard.

21

(END)