

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 134

Reps. Woolford, Kunse, Schuette, Robinson, Hoadley, DeBoyer, Tate, Meerman, Alexander, Fox and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the  
2 United States Marine Corps.

3       Whereas, The United States Marine Corps was founded on  
4 November 10th, 1775, in Tun Tavern, Philadelphia to augment naval  
5 forces in the Revolutionary War, prior even to the founding of the  
6 United States; and

7       Whereas, The greatest weapon on earth is the Marine and his  
8 rifle; and

9       Whereas, The Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis, Latin for  
10 "Always Faithful," reflects an eternal and collective commitment to  
11 success in battle, the progress of our Nation, and the steadfast  
12 loyalty each Marine has to the Marines they fight alongside; and

1       Whereas, The Marines have exemplified the highest standards of  
2 honor, courage, and commitment, and continue to forge this legacy  
3 of bravery and selfless dedication to our nation and its  
4 Constitution today; and

5       Whereas, Marines have exhibited exemplary bravery and  
6 sacrifice in defense of our freedoms in countless battles  
7 throughout our nation's history; and

8       Whereas, The nickname "Devil Dog" was bestowed upon the  
9 Marines by German soldiers at the Battle of Belleau Wood in June of  
10 1918 due to the menacing appearance of Marines as they attacked a  
11 hill occupied by German forces; and

12       Whereas, The Blood Stripes worn down the outside leg seams of  
13 trousers on the dress uniforms of Marine Officers, Staff  
14 Noncommissioned Officers, and Noncommissioned Officers commemorate  
15 the courage and tenacious fighting of the men who fought in the  
16 Battle of Chapultepec in September of 1847; and

17       Whereas, The nickname "Leatherneck" was also bestowed upon the  
18 Marines in reference to the leather stock once worn around the neck  
19 by Marines to protect from slashing blades and to keep the head and  
20 neck erect when in uniform; and

21       Whereas, The Mameluke Swords carried by Marine Officers  
22 represent a rich legacy of fighting by those who our Nation trusts  
23 to win, after a Mameluke chieftain in North Africa presented the  
24 sword to Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon in 1805; and

25       Whereas, The NCO Swords carried by Marine Noncommission  
26 Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers were first bestowed to  
27 Noncommissioned Officers by the 6th Commandant, Colonel John  
28 Harris, in recognition of their leadership in combat; and

29       Whereas, The fighting spirit of each and every Marine

1 continues to flourish and ensure the defense of our nation against  
2 enemies both foreign and domestic; and

3       Whereas, Michigan has a proud history of contributions to the  
4 Marine Corps. In 1922, Detroit became home to a volunteer Marine  
5 Corps Reserve company, laying the foundation for what would become  
6 the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines; and

7       Whereas, The 1st Battalion, 24th Marines distinguished itself  
8 in pivotal World War II battles, including Kwajalein, Tinian,  
9 Saipan, and Iwo Jima. They continued their valorous service during  
10 Operation Iraqi Freedom. During their deployment to Fallujah, Iraq,  
11 the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines played a pivotal role in  
12 counterinsurgency operations, contributing to the stabilization and  
13 rebuilding efforts in the region; and

14       Whereas, The 1st Battalion, 24th Marines is headquartered at  
15 Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township and has  
16 companies throughout the Midwest, including Battle Creek and  
17 Lansing; and

18       Whereas, Corporal Duane E. Dewey, born in Grand Rapids,  
19 Michigan, received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the  
20 Korean War where he instinctively shielded his fellow Marines by  
21 throwing himself onto an enemy grenade that came close to their  
22 position. Despite being injured in a recent night attack, Cpl.  
23 Dewey absorbed the full blast to protect those around him; and

24       Whereas, Private First Class Dewayne T. Williams, a Michigan  
25 Marine, displayed extraordinary heroism and self-sacrifice during a  
26 firefight with enemy forces, shielding his fellow Marines from a  
27 grenade blast by throwing himself on it, saving their lives at the  
28 cost of his own. Pfc. Williams was posthumously awarded the Medal  
29 of Honor in recognition of his valor above and beyond the call of

1 duty; and

2       Whereas, Corporal Harold Schultz, a native of Detroit, was  
3 later identified as one of the six Marines who proudly raised the  
4 American flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima, a  
5 powerful symbol of courage, sacrifice, and the unbreakable spirit  
6 of our Marines in World War II; and

7       Whereas, The steadfast commitment, courage, and sacrifice of  
8 United States Marines have made the Marine Corps an indispensable  
9 force in defending freedom, safeguarding the nation, and upholding  
10 the principles of ordered liberty; and

11       Whereas, As the United States Marine Corps commemorates its  
12 250th anniversary, it is fitting to recognize and honor the  
13 contributions of Michigan's Marines, past and present, who have  
14 played a vital role in upholding the freedoms and values of our  
15 nation; now, therefore, be it

16       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That members of this  
17 legislative body commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United  
18 States Marine Corps; and, be it further

19       Resolved, That we express our deepest gratitude to all Marines  
20 for their unwavering service and sacrifice.