

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 134

Reps. Woolford, Kunse, Schuette, Robinson, Hoadley, DeBoyer, Tate and Meerman 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

13 Whereas, The Marines have exemplified the highest standards of

1 honor, courage, and commitment, and continue to forge this legacy
2 of bravery and selfless dedication to our nation and its
3 Constitution today; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, The fighting spirit of each and every Marine
29 continues to flourish and ensure the defense of our nation against

1 enemies both foreign and domestic; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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