

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY WHITAKER, WISE, HEATON, GREINER, GASKILL, SANDS,  
COHOON, SWAIM, DE BOEF, MILLER, THOMAS, HUTTER,  
D. TAYLOR, WATTS, BAUDLER, SHOMSHOR, REASONER,  
DOLECHECK, KURTENBACH, DANDEKAR, BOAL, HEDDENS,  
GRANZOW, STRUYK, LUKAN, REICHERT, HUSEMAN, HUNTER,  
PETTENGILL, TYMESON, BERRY, EICHHORN, KRESSIG,  
DAVITT, MURPHY, D. OLSON, BUKTA, PETERSEN, JACOBY,  
and TJEPKES

A Resolution to honor the 224th Combat Engineer Battalion  
of the Iowa National Guard for its service and  
sacrifice in the Iraq War.

WHEREAS, the 224th Combat Engineer Battalion of the  
Iowa National Guard is based in Fairfield and has  
units in Burlington, Keokuk, Mount Pleasant, and  
Ottumwa; and

WHEREAS, about 500 soldiers of the 224th have  
returned to Iowa after a year on duty in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, to date, that contingent of the 224th is  
the largest Iowa group which has returned from Iraq;  
and

WHEREAS, the work of the 224th was long, hard, and  
dangerous, including finding and disarming the so-  
called "improvised explosive devices" while conducting  
combat operations in support of the 1st Marine  
Division, 2nd Marine Division, and other Army and  
Marine organizations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq;  
and

WHEREAS, that deadly work resulted in locating over  
500 of these deadly devices, saving countless lives,

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1 and earned the 224th the respect and gratitude of  
2 soldiers throughout Iraq; and

3 WHEREAS, during that service four soldiers of the  
4 224th were killed and 37 soldiers were recognized with  
5 Purple Heart Medals; and

6 WHEREAS, the 224th Combat Engineer Battalion  
7 concluded combat operations in the Al Anbar province  
8 of Iraq on December 2, 2005, after having supported  
9 the I Marine Expeditionary Force, II Marine  
10 Expeditionary Force, 1st Marine Division, 2nd Marine  
11 Division, the United States Marine Corps Regimental  
12 Combat Teams 1, 2, 7, and 8, the 11th and 13th Marine  
13 Expeditionary Units, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd  
14 Infantry Division, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 28th  
15 Infantry Division, the 155th Brigade Combat Team, and  
16 over 35 maneuver battalions and task forces during  
17 2005; and

18 WHEREAS, soldiers of the 224th Combat Engineer  
19 Battalion cleared over 500 improvised explosive  
20 devices from over 16,000 kilometers of roadways  
21 between March 15 and November 29, 2005; and

22 WHEREAS, these explosive devices ranged in size  
23 from a surface-laid 122 millimeter round up to the  
24 size of a refrigerator, buried beneath the surface of  
25 a road; and

26 WHEREAS, Company C of Mount Pleasant and Keokuk  
27 cleared most of the distance, operating in support of  
28 the United States Marine Corps' Regimental Combat  
29 Teams 1, 2, 7, and 8 in Fallujah, Hit, Hadithah, Al  
30 Qaim, Husaybah, Ar Rutbah, and other areas in the

1 western areas of the province, spending many weeks  
2 working out of base camps and forward operating bases  
3 in these areas of operation; and

4 WHEREAS, Companies A and B of Burlington and  
5 Ottumwa, respectively, conducted route clearance  
6 operations primarily in Ar Ramadi, the provincial  
7 capitol of Iraq. The convoy security escort teams,  
8 which are comprised of soldiers and Marines of Company  
9 A, Company B, Battery B 2nd Battalion 11th Marines  
10 (United States Marine Corps), and Company C 4th Tank  
11 Battalion (United States Marine Corps), traveled over  
12 900,000 miles throughout the country of Iraq,  
13 providing security to combat support and combat  
14 service support units, as well as civilian  
15 contractors, as they delivered the sustainment items  
16 to the camps and forward operating bases throughout  
17 Iraq; and

18 WHEREAS, the battalion was headquartered at Camp  
19 Ramadi, a former Iraqi Republican Guard installation  
20 on the western outskirts of Ar Ramadi, where they were  
21 engaged by indirect fire over 219 times between March  
22 1, 2005, and November 27, 2005; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
24 That the House of Representatives thanks the soldiers  
25 of the 224th Combat Engineer Battalion of the Iowa  
26 National Guard for their service in Iraq; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
28 Representatives honors the memory of Sergeant Casey  
29 Byers, Sergeant Seth Garceau, Second Lieutenant  
30 Richard B. "Brian" Gienau, and Specialist John W.

H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ S.R. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Miller, who gave their lives in service to their  
2 country and to the cause of freedom.

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