
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE
RECONSIDERATION OF POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDING THE MEDAL OF HONOR
TO CAPTAIN ROBERT MALUENDA CALIBOSO.

1 WHEREAS, Robert Maluenda Caliboso was raised on the island
2 of Molokai; and

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4 WHEREAS, Robert Maluenda Caliboso graduated from Saint
5 Louis College (now Saint Louis High School) on the island of
6 Oahu in 1955; and

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8 WHEREAS, Robert Maluenda Caliboso served honorably and with
9 great distinction in the United States Army, where he attained
10 the rank of captain; and

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12 WHEREAS, on March 5, 1966, Captain Caliboso was serving in
13 Vietnam as Aircraft Commander of a UH-1D helicopter in Company
14 B, 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division; and

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16 WHEREAS, Captain Caliboso learned that the perimeter of the
17 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry was surrounded and under heavy
18 attack by a regimental-sized Viet Cong force in the vicinity of
19 Lai Khe, Binh Duong Province, and that the surrounded American
20 infantrymen were quickly running out of ammunition; and

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22 WHEREAS, Captain Caliboso and his crew volunteered to fly
23 into the raging jungle battle to deliver fifteen hundred pounds
24 of ammunition that was desperately needed to prevent their
25 fellow soldiers from being overrun and annihilated; and

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27 WHEREAS, on the approach to the landing zone, Captain
28 Caliboso's helicopter was repeatedly hit by heavy machine gun
29 and small arms fire; and



1 WHEREAS, knowing the ammunition was desperately needed to
2 save the besieged infantrymen, Captain Caliboso and his crew
3 ignored their personal safety and continued through the heavy
4 fire to the landing zone; and

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6 WHEREAS, although the entire helicopter crew had been
7 seriously wounded, all the ammunition was successfully unloaded
8 and Captain Caliboso managed to fly the helicopter out of its
9 untenable position; and

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11 WHEREAS, moments later, the helicopter was shot down by a
12 deadly cross fire from Viet Cong heavy machine guns, killing all
13 aboard; and

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15 WHEREAS, Captain Caliboso's gallantry, in the face of
16 overwhelming firepower, allowed the heavily outnumbered infantry
17 troops to keep fighting and inspired them to rally, turn the
18 tide of battle, and completely rout the insurgent force; and

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20 WHEREAS, Captain Caliboso's conspicuous bravery undoubtedly
21 saved numerous American lives; and

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23 WHEREAS, Captain Caliboso was recommended to posthumously
24 receive the Medal of Honor, America's highly military honor, in
25 recognition of his acts of valor above and beyond the call of
26 duty; and

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28 WHEREAS, the recommendation was reviewed by appropriate
29 Army commanders and authorities who determined that Captain
30 Caliboso should instead receive the Distinguished Service Cross,
31 which was awarded in his honor in 1967; and

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33 WHEREAS, supporters of Captain Caliboso believe that he
34 rightly deserved the Medal of Honor and later urged that the
35 decision to posthumously award him the Distinguished Service
36 Cross in lieu of the Medal of Honor be reconsidered; and

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38 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Army determined in 2009 that
39 the degree of action and service rendered did not meet the
40 criteria for the Medal of Honor, and reaffirmed that the
41 previously awarded Distinguished Service Cross was the
42 appropriate award for Captain Caliboso's actions; and



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WHEREAS, the supporters of Captain Caliboso believe that Captain Caliboso's heroic actions on March 5, 1966, displayed the same level of unselfish bravery for which other United States service members have received the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, the Army's Awards and Decorations Branch informed Captain Caliboso's supporters that Army regulations stipulate that one-time reconsideration of a previously approved award shall be conclusive and that the branch can take no further administrative action regarding their request for reconsideration; and

WHEREAS, supporters of Captain Caliboso have petitioned the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the highest adjudicating authority with final authority over matters of this nature, to further consider recommending that Captain Caliboso posthumously receive the Medal of Honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged to support the petition to posthumously award Captain Robert Maluenda Caliboso the Medal of Honor, the United States of America's highest military honor, for his personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: K. Lee

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Caliboso
Byzant
Marky. Hall
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