
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING RETIRED U.S. AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES
SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN KOLFAGE FOR THE SACRIFICES HE MADE FOR
OUR COUNTRY AND HIS SERVICE TO OUR WOUNDED VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE was raised in Waikiki, Hawaii, and
2 upon graduating from Kaimuki High School in 1999, he enlisted in
3 the United States Air Force; and
4

5 WHEREAS, on September 11, 2004, while on his second
6 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a 107mm rocket
7 exploded 3 feet away from BRIAN KOLFAGE, throwing him several
8 feet into the air. 36 hours after being struck by the blast, he
9 was finally airlifted to Walter Reed Medical Center; and
10

11 WHEREAS, because of the mortar explosion, BRIAN KOLFAGE
12 lost both of his legs and his dominant right hand; and
13

14 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE was awarded the Purple Heart Medal
15 and to this day, he is the most severely wounded U.S. Airman
16 alive to survive any war; and
17

18 WHEREAS, after being fitted with multiple prosthetics and
19 enduring endless physical therapy sessions, BRIAN KOLFAGE walked
20 out of the Walter Reed Medical Center just 11 months after being
21 injured; and
22

23 WHEREAS, prior to this, no one with his level of amputation
24 had been able to walk independently; and
25

26 WHEREAS, upon leaving Walter Reed, BRIAN KOLFAGE continued
27 his service in the Air Force with the 355th Security Forces
28 Squadron at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona;
29 and
30



H.R. NO. 215

1 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE further served his community through
2 advising Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' Veterans Advisory
3 Committee and was even invited as the Congresswoman's special
4 guest at the 2012 Presidential State of the Union address; and
5

6 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE later retired from the military to
7 enroll in the University of Arizona's competitive School of
8 Architecture where he also received one of the most prestigious
9 military scholarships, the Pat Tillman Scholar Award, and rose
10 to the top of his class with a 3.8 overall GPA; and
11

12 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE continued to visit newly-wounded
13 veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, giving them a new
14 hope for their futures; and
15

16 WHEREAS, in 2014, the Wounded Warrior Project honored him
17 with the George C. Lang Award for Courage, not only for his
18 fearlessness, but also his selfless mentorship of other wounded
19 veterans; and
20

21 WHEREAS, BRIAN KOLFAGE currently lives by the ocean in a
22 fully-accessible smart home in Florida built for him by the Gary
23 Sinise Foundation, where he stays busy with his family while
24 managing different business ventures; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2018, that this body humbly recognizes the sacrifices that
29 this local boy made for our country and extends to BRIAN KOLFAGE
30 its warmest aloha and best wishes for his continued success in
31 all future endeavors as he continues to make Hawaii proud.
32
33
34

OFFERED BY:



MAR 16 2018

