

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3058

(Representatives M. Ruby, Bellew, Fisher, Hoverson, Louser, Paulson, D. Ruby, Schobinger)
(Senators Burckhard, Hogue, Krebsbach, O. Larsen)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution to commend and congratulate North Dakota's Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Combat Battalion, for being awarded the Army Valorous Unit Citation and to recognize and honor the unit and their family members for their heroic and selfless service, sacrifice, dedication, and contributions to North Dakota and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Combat Battalion, was mobilized and ordered to active duty on August 5, 2005; and after two months of training at Fort Riley in Kansas, the unit moved to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California to complete its mobilization validation process, including counter-improvised explosive device training, route clearance, and training and operation in mock Iraqi villages; and

WHEREAS, the unit ultimately deployed to Iraq to assume the unit's mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was the first unit to deploy directly to Operation Iraqi Freedom from the National Training Center; and

WHEREAS, the unit's primary mission was to conduct route clearance patrols on the main supply route, patrolling over 86,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, between December 1, 2005, to October 31, 2006, the unit engaged in 479 enemy incidents resulting in 446 improvised explosive devices of which 320 were found and cleared and 117 were detonated; and

WHEREAS, the unit spent 358 days on foreign soil and 437 days away from families, friends, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the unit awarded the Combat Action Badge to over 90 percent of the company, and members of the unit were presented 10 Bronze Star Medals for heroic achievements or services, 10 Purple Heart Medals, and numerous Army Commendation Medals; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the exemplary service, the United States Army awarded the Army Valorous Unit Citation to the unit for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Army Valorous Unit Citation is the second highest unit award of the United States Army and is considered the unit equivalent of a Silver Star Medal; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2006, Specialist Michael Hermanson made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country when a rocket propelled grenade was fired in Al Abayachi, Iraq during combat operations; and

WHEREAS, the unit became tight knit friends who ultimately became family through shared experiences and service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the unit was welcomed back into North Dakota on November 10, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly commends and congratulates North Dakota's Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Combat Battalion, for being awarded the Army Valorous Unit Citation and

recognizes and honors the unit and their family members for their heroic and selfless service, sacrifice, dedication, and contributions to North Dakota and the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Combat Battalion, or their next of kin and to the Adjutant General.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate