

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3058

Introduced by

Representatives M. Ruby, Bellew, Fisher, Hoverson, Louser, Paulson, D. Ruby, Schobinger

Senators Burckhard, Hogue, Krebsbach, O. Larsen

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly commends and congratulates North Dakota's
12 Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Combat Battalion, for being awarded the Army Valorous Unit
13 Citation and recognizes and honors the unit and their family members for their heroic and
14 selfless service, sacrifice, dedication, and contributions to North Dakota and the United States
15 of America; and

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