

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 141

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Colonel William D. Andersen, United States Air Force, for his extraordinary service to his country.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation and appreciation be expressed to Colonel William D. Andersen, United States Air Force, for his remarkable military service; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Andersen has consistently demonstrated his dedicated spirit and intense determination to serve his country with honor and distinction throughout the course of his distinguished career in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2012, Lieutenant General Eric E. Fiel, Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida, is presiding over the Change of Command Ceremony when Colonel Andersen becomes Commander of the Air Force Special Operations Training Center; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Andersen has served as the Vice Commander of the Combined Air Power Transition Force, NATO Training Mission and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, as well as the Vice Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Andersen has led a joint and combined organization to mentor, train, and assist the Afghan National Security Forces' aviation units and has conducted strategic level coordination with United States Central Command, International Security Assistance Forces, and the Afghan ministries of Defense and Interior to develop presidential airlift, battlefield mobility, attack, command and control, counternarcotics, police aviation security, and reconnaissance capabilities of the Afghan air forces; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Andersen has also served as the Commandant of the United States Air Force Special Operations School (USAFSOS), located at Hurlburt Field, Florida,

commanding an organization of military, civilian, and contractor personnel and educating more than five thousand Department of Defense, Department of State, NATO, Allied, and other government agency students in twenty-one courses annually; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Colonel Andersen served as the Commander of the Kapisa and Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, responsible for security, reconstruction, and governance tasks; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2011, Colonel Andersen was injured in a helicopter crash near the Pakistan/Afghanistan border, and he has displayed great courage on his road to rehabilitation and recovery; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of his exceptional career, Colonel Andersen has been honored with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal with two Devices, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, and Army Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Andersen has consistently performed his duties in an outstanding fashion, exhibiting bravery and gallantry in the face of utmost danger; and

WHEREAS, the valiant heroism displayed by Colonel Andersen in defense of freedom is a shining example of the American spirit in which all Louisianians take great pride; and

WHEREAS, Colonel William D. Andersen merits the highest commendation and sincere congratulations for his exemplary term of military service and for his outstanding contributions to the United States Air Force and his nation, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his wonderful legacy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Colonel William D. Andersen for his remarkable career in the United States Air Force, does hereby express to him enduring appreciation for his many years of distinguished military service, does hereby record for posterity his vital contributions and his tireless dedication to excellence, does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success and happiness in his future

endeavors, and does hereby recognize the tremendous pride and honor that he brings to the state of Louisiana and to the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Colonel William D. Andersen.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES