

## 2008 SESSION

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089304548

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 557

Offered March 3, 2008

*Commending Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief.*

Patron—Hugo

WHEREAS, Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief is an Iraqi attorney who contributed to the rescue of Jessica Lynch, one of several soldiers who was taken prisoner by Iraqi forces in 2003; and

WHEREAS, born in Najaf, Iraq, Mohammed Al-Rehaief went to school in Nasiriyah and graduated from Al Mutanaby High School in Baghdad; he then went on to earn a degree in political law from Basra University and practiced law for four years before leaving his native country; and

WHEREAS, outside his professional life in Iraq, Mohammed Al-Rehaief pursued his passion for kung fu, in which he holds a black belt, and he opened a martial arts school in Nasiriyah, where he taught for several years; and

WHEREAS, after his actions in relation to the rescue of Jessica Lynch, Mohammed Al-Rehaief, his wife, and young child were living in a refugee camp before they obtained asylum in the United States in 2003 and ultimately settled in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mohammed Al-Rehaief committed a selfless act in helping United States forces come to the aid of Jessica Lynch, and he is grateful to have the opportunity to start a new life here in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief for his contribution to the rescue of Jessica Lynch; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his willingness to help an American soldier in a dangerous situation.

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