

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 848

Offered February 9, 2011

Commending the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team of the Virginia National Guard.

Patrons—Garrett, Abbitt, Byron, Cline, Marshall, D.W., Merricks and Putney; Senator: Newman

WHEREAS, members of the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team of the Virginia National Guard, based in Lynchburg, returned home from service in Iraq in August of 2010; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 1st Battalion had just over 60 days to prepare before they were deployed to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on January 5, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the 1st Battalion was based in southern Iraq, where members served the vital function of providing security for convoys delivering supplies to members of the United States Armed Forces in the central, southern, and northern parts of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, during their deployment in Iraq, members of the 1st Battalion traveled more than 170,000 miles while completing more than 278 convoy missions to transport more than 120 million gallons of fuel and 900,000 short tons of supplies; and

WHEREAS, members of the 1st Battalion endured a total of 22 enemy attacks and defended against small arms fire and improvised explosive device detonations without any injuries; and

WHEREAS, when they returned to Lynchburg in August of 2010, members of the 1st Battalion expressed joy at being reunited with their families; and

WHEREAS, in a January 9, 2011, Freedom Salute ceremony in Roanoke, Governor Robert F. McDonnell personally recognized more than 350 members of the 1st Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Governor McDonnell presented each member of the 1st Battalion at the Freedom Salute ceremony with the Governor's National Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional service and devotion to duty and to their fellow soldiers exhibited by members of the 1st Battalion is a reminder of the commitment and bravery of the members of our armed forces worldwide; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team of the Virginia National Guard on their safe return from service in Iraq; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Lieutenant Colonel Scott Smith, commander of the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team of the Virginia National Guard, as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for their selfless service to the Commonwealth and the nation.

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