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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Capt. William Albracht served as the senior ground  
3 commander at Firebase Kate, a fortified position in the Central  
4 Highlands of South Vietnam near the Cambodian border, and was  
5 tasked with interdicting North Vietnamese Army (NVA) movements  
6 along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and restricting the enemy's ability  
7 to attack Special Forces camps in the area; by late October  
8 1969, about 5,000 NVA troops had surrounded the firebase and  
9 were preparing to attack; Capt. Albracht and fellow Special  
10 Forces soldier Sgt. Daniel Pierelli prepared the troops for the  
11 inevitable battle, which finally began on October 28, 1969; and

12           WHEREAS, The NVA began its siege of Firebase Kate on the  
13 night of October 28, when a Civilian Irregular Defense Group  
14 patrol ran into the forward elements of an NVA regiment; the  
15 NVA troops, who outnumbered Kate's defenders by about 40 to  
16 one, launched their first assault around 11:30 the next  
17 morning; NVA troops mercilessly attacked Firebase Kate with  
18 small arms fire, mortars, artillery, and B-40 rockets, but  
19 Kate's defenders drove them off; despite the valiant efforts of  
20 the defenders at Kate, NVA attacks were slowly wearing them  
21 down; Capt. William Albracht, wounded during the attack on  
22 October 29, chose to stay at Kate to lead the remaining  
23 besieged troops during the assaults; and

1           WHEREAS, Seeing that his position was untenable, Capt.  
2 William Albracht radioed Special Forces Operations and  
3 requested permission to escape from Firebase Kate with his  
4 soldiers; after obtaining permission from his superiors, he  
5 decided to make his escape on November 1; Capt. Albracht and  
6 Sgt. Pierelli drew up an escape-and-evasion plan, arranged for  
7 gunships to protect them as they left Kate, and explained  
8 carefully to the troops how they would link up with a Special  
9 Forces detachment waiting for them in a concealed position  
10 about 3 miles away; and

11           WHEREAS, After sabotaging everything at the base that could  
12 be used by the NVA, Capt. William Albracht and his soldiers  
13 began their trek at about 10 P.M. on November 1, 1969, knowing  
14 that the NVA would be looking for them and would not take  
15 prisoners; the NVA immediately lit the area with flares as the  
16 men fled down the North Slope, through a small gap in the wood  
17 line, and up the side of Ambush Hill; after dodging NVA patrols  
18 and ambushes, Capt. Albracht and his men reached Mike Force at  
19 3 A.M. on November 2, 1969; During the final evacuation, Capt.  
20 Albracht wound up crossing the open field three times, on each  
21 occasion exposing himself to the enemy, to make sure his men  
22 were safe; and

23           WHEREAS, Capt. William Albracht has been the recipient of 3  
24 Silver Stars, 3 Purple Hearts, 5 Bronze Stars (3 for valor), 2

1 Air Medals (one for valor), and an Army Commendation Medal (for  
2 valor), but was not awarded the Medal of Honor for his  
3 courageous acts at Firebase Kate;; and

4 WHEREAS, The members of this body believe that the  
5 gallantry displayed by Captain William Albracht on those  
6 fateful days deserves to be further reviewed by the Department  
7 of the Army and the Department of Defense in order to determine  
8 if his actions are worthy of this nation's highest military  
9 honor; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we urge Congress, the Department of the Army, and the  
13 Department of Defense to again review Captain Albracht's heroic  
14 actions at Firebase Kate and, if warranted, upgrade the Silver  
15 Star bestowed on him for those actions to the Medal of Honor;  
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 presented to the President, the Speaker and Minority Leader of  
19 the United States House of Representatives, and the Majority  
20 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate.