



HR0772

LRB104 21274 LAW 35988 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the career and legacy of General John Malchase David Shalikashvili of the United States Army; and

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WHEREAS, General Shalikashvili, a descendant of the Georgian noble family House of Shalikashvili, was born in Warsaw, Poland; at the age of 16, he immigrated to Peoria, Illinois in 1952, learning English by watching American movies; he graduated from Bradley University with a degree in mechanical engineering; and

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WHEREAS, After receiving his draft notice, General Shalikashvili entered the United States Army as a private and rose through every level of command from platoon to division, ultimately becoming the 13th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first foreign-born, first draftee, and first Officer Candidate School graduate to hold that position; and

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WHEREAS, General Shalikashvili served heroically in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, and demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his career, including as commander of the 9th Infantry Division and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) for NATO; and

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1           WHEREAS, General Shalikashvili directed Operation Provide  
2           Comfort, a 1991 humanitarian mission that saved the lives of  
3           more than 500,000 Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq, earning  
4           international recognition for his ability to coordinate  
5           military, coalition, and humanitarian efforts; and

6           WHEREAS, As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from  
7           1993 to 1997, General Shalikashvili advised President Bill  
8           Clinton on military and humanitarian operations around the  
9           globe, oversaw more than 40 missions, promoted joint military  
10          operations, and guided the United States Armed Forces through  
11          a period of post-Cold War downsizing; and

12          WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, General Shalikashvili was  
13          awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his tireless  
14          dedication to national security and world peace, and he  
15          continued to serve the nation as an advisor, educator, and  
16          advocate for international cooperation; and

17          WHEREAS, General Shalikashvili passed away on July 23,  
18          2011 at the age of 75 and was laid to rest at Arlington  
19          National Cemetery, leaving behind a legacy of service and  
20          leadership; and

21          WHEREAS, General Shalikashvili's lifelong dedication,

1 humility, and courage embody the highest ideals of military  
2 service, representing the promise of America and the  
3 extraordinary contributions of those who choose to serve;  
4 therefore, be it

5       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we recognize the distinguished career and enduring legacy of  
8 General John Malchase David Shalikashvili of the United States  
9 Army as a soldier, leader, and statesman, and we express our  
10 deepest gratitude for his service to the United States and the  
11 world.