



HR0316

LRB102 18475 ECR 26602 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Edward Aldrich, a Morris resident, joined the United States Army in 1968 with the plan of becoming a military police officer and starting a career in law enforcement after his service; and

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WHEREAS, After spending time serving state side, Specialist Edward Aldrich received an order in 1969 to go to Vietnam where he where he was assigned to Company B, 720th Military Police Battalion; and

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WHEREAS, B Company, known as the Bushwackers, were comprised of three Ambush and Reconnaissance Platoons and one Patrol Boat Riverine (PBR) Platoon; and

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WHEREAS, During his time with the Bushwackers, Specialist Edward Aldrich was assigned as a rifleman to the 2nd Ambush & Reconnaissance Platoon from July of 1969 through November of 1969; from December of 1969 through July of 1970, he was assigned to the PBR Platoon as a Senior Boston Whaler Operators; and

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WHEREAS, The Reconnaissance and Ambush Platoons were directed to seek out and destroy any Vietcong or Northern Vietnamese Army Units pertaining to a 22 square mile Tactical

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1 Area of Responsibility in and around the Long Binh and Bien Hoa
2 area of South Vietnam; and

3 WHEREAS, The Boston Whaler Operators piloted small armed
4 gun boats primarily used to transport Ambush Personnel to and
5 from embarkation and debarkation points along the Song Dong
6 Nai River; and

7 WHEREAS, The Bushwackers were originally trained to be
8 policemen but were assigned to fulfill infantry tactical
9 operations; they were the first line of defense protecting
10 Long Binh Post, which was the largest military base in South
11 Vietnam; and

12 WHEREAS, The protection of the Long Binh Post required the
13 Bushwackers to perform ambushes as well as recon and patrol
14 missions that lasted up to 12 days in awful terrain and poor
15 weather conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, Just like the infantry units, the Bushwackers
17 were responsible for calling in their own air strikes and
18 support as well as any artillery; and

19 WHEREAS, These heroes may not have been classified as
20 infantry, but they did the same jobs and have earned the
21 acknowledgment of the United States Army; and

1 WHEREAS, Specialist Edward Aldrich feels that he and those
2 with whom he served have earned the Combat Infantry Badge,
3 which the United States Army continues to deny; therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we urge the federal government to recognize Specialist Edward
8 Aldrich and all the members of Company B, 720th Military
9 Police, the Bushwackers, with the Combat Infantry Badge for
10 their service and sacrifice to our country during the Vietnam
11 War; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Specialist Edward Aldrich as a symbol of our
14 esteem and respect.