



## State representative "rights wrong" with resolution praising fallen Georgia Marine

Corporal also served in Afghanistan where he earned bravery medal.

Posted: March 13, 2012 - 12:06am | Updated: March 13, 2012 - 8:21am

### Georgia House Resolution 1443

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The Georgia House adopted a resolution Monday recognizing the service of Cpl. John R. Stalvey, who died Oct. 3, 2005, when the Humvee he was driving struck a mine in Iraq.

Sponsor Alex Atwood, R-Brunswick, said he was simply "righting a wrong" and that Stalvey, who was 22 when he died, should have been recognized years earlier. Atwood said he may have been missed because his address of record was in Texas.

When he enlisted in March 2002, Stalvey was living with his uncle, A.P. Merillat, near Houston, but he went to school in Ludowici and Brunswick, where his divorced parents live and where he is buried.

"If you can recognize a football player or a rap star, you've got to recognize him," Atwood said.

Atwood said he learned of Stalvey when he went to a veteran's observance at Gulfstream Aerospace's Brunswick facility.

"I saw a Marine uniform on display and asked what it was," he said.

He said he was told it was to honor the son of Billy Stalvey and Crystal Merrilat, who work at Gulfstream.

"I was just there to cut the cake, and I found a hero," he said.

The resolution recognizes Stalvey for his deployment to Afghanistan from May until October 2004, for which he was awarded the Marine Corps Achievement Medal for Bravery for driving 16 Marines out of harm's way in an improvised explosive device blast. It mentions his service in Iraq where he had been only a month when he died.

Stalvey's mother and his brother and sister, Matthew and Cristen Stalvey, attended the event. His father was ill and could not come, Atwood said.

Three Marines also came from Gulfstream, Atwood said.

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By: Representatives Atwood of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Lane of the 167<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Hill of the 21<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and memory of Corporal John R. Stalvey and inviting William Stalvey, Crystal Merillat, Matthew Stalvey, and Cristen Stalvey to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Corporal John R. Stalvey was a citizen of Brunswick, Georgia, attended school in Glynn County, and was an honor graduate from Faith Christian Academy in Ludowski, Georgia, where he was awarded "Mr. Hustle" in sports; and

WHEREAS, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and attended the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina, from March 11, 2002, to June 6, 2002, where he received the meritorious promotion to private first class, then attended the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger in North Carolina in June of 2002; and

WHEREAS, after his deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from November of 2002 to June of 2003, he was deployed to Djibouti, Africa, from August of 2003 to February of 2004, where he trained with the French Foreign Legion; and

WHEREAS, he was deployed to Afghanistan from May of 2004 to October of 2004, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, during which time he was promoted to the rank of corporal on July 1, 2004, and served as a fire teams leader and company improvised explosive device trainer; and

WHEREAS, while serving in Afghanistan, a remote controlled improvised explosive device

exploded under the front of his mobile troop vehicle during an operation in the Wazir valley, and he immediately sped through the explosion to move the 15 Marines in his vehicle out of a potential ambush kill zone and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his bravery; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Stalvey returned to the United States, graduating from Scout Sniper School on July 29, 2005, and was deployed to Iraq in August of 2005; and

WHEREAS, as a member of Scout Sniper Platoon assigned to 3rd battalion, 6 Marine Regiment, II MEF, he was mortally wounded when his humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device during Operation Iron Fist; and

WHEREAS, his professionalism, bravery, and loyal dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and his family, in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the heroism of this distinguished Georgian be recognized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body honor the life and memory of Corporal John R. Stalvey, express their most profound appreciation for him and all members of the United States military who stand ever ready to lay the ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom, and invite William Stalvey, Crystal Merillat, Matthew Stalvey, and Cristen Stalvey to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Corporal John R. Stalvey.