

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SR 18

4
5 By: Senators Bisbee, Hill

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7
8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING MARINE COLONEL JOHN R.
10 BATES FOR HIS ILLUSTRIOUS AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO
11 OUR NATION AND AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES
12 MARINE CORPS.

13
14 **Subtitle**

15 SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING MARINE
16 COLONEL JOHN R. BATES FOR HIS
17 ILLUSTRIOUS AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO OUR
18 NATION AND AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED
19 STATES MARINE CORPS.

20
21
22 WHEREAS, Colonel John R. Bates will be retiring from the United States
23 Marine Corps on the May 26, 2005, after thirty-three (33) years of service
24 and participating in three (3) wars; and

25
26 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas,
27 where he spent the first twenty-six (26) years of his life; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates is married to Stephanie Bates, his wife of
30 thirty-two (32) years; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates' military passion seeped into him through his
33 bloodlines. His father, Leland Bates, who died two (2) months ago, flew
34 fifty-one (51) combat missions during World War II; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when



1 the Vietnam War heated up in the mid-1960s; and

2
3 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates' highly distinguished career in the United
4 States Marine Corps includes three (3) Purple Heart awards from his tour of
5 duty in Vietnam; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates earned his first Purple Heart award after
8 surviving machine-gun fire to his chest and being relegated to mopping the
9 hospital floor after he was hospitalized in intensive care for twenty-three
10 (23) days. His loyalty to his fellow Marines inspired him to find a pair of
11 boots, pants, and a blue hospital gown; walk out of the hospital; hitch a
12 ride to the airfield; catch a helicopter; and, despite still spitting up
13 blood, rejoin his platoon; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates earned his second Purple Heart award from a
16 hand-grenade explosion that blasted shrapnel into his leg and his third
17 Purple Heart award after his left foot was impaled by a three-foot bamboo
18 stake concealed in a pit; and

19
20 WHEREAS, less than two (2) years into his scheduled three-year
21 enlistment, Colonel Bates was discharged because of the injuries he received
22 in combat; and

23
24 WHEREAS, during the next seven (7) years, Colonel Bates earned a
25 bachelor's degree and two (2) master's degrees; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates worked as a substitute teacher, a railroad
28 brakeman, and a heavy equipment operator; and

29
30 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates was readmitted into the United States Marine
31 Corps because of his rigorous training after being rejected five (5) times
32 over a period of two and one-half (2½) years; and

33
34 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates has served throughout the world, including tours
35 in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm and, most recently, in Iraq; and

36

1 WHEREAS, on March 19, 2005, at fifty-eight (58) years of age, Colonel
2 Bates competed in the Ralphs California Half Ironman competition for the
3 second year in a row; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates has completed fifty-one (51) marathons, five (5)
6 ultramarathons of one hundred (100) miles or longer, and the 1982 Ironman
7 Hawaii; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates is currently the Assistant Chief of Staff of
10 Operations and Training at Camp Pendleton; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Bates would like to continue serving in the United
13 States Marine Corps but has reached his maximum length of service as an
14 officer; and
15

16 WHEREAS, after retirement, Colonel Bates will move to Hawaii and work
17 as the director of the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center,
18

19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
21 STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 THAT the Senate of the State of Arkansas honors Marine Colonel John R.
24 Bates for his illustrious and selfless service to our nation and as a member
25 of the United States Marine Corps.
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to resolution
29 sponsors and fellow marines Senator Dave Bisbee and Senator Jim Hill for
30 presentation to Colonel John R. Bates.
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