

## House Resolution 1097

By: Representatives Smith of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Maxwell of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Harper of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Post 2, Butler of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, Westmoreland of the 86<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Sergeant Major Michael Henry Duke; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Michael Henry Duke is one of the most distinguished,  
3 experienced, and decorated soldiers and native sons the State of Georgia has ever known; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Duke joined the army straight out of high school in 1978; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he distinguished himself in basic training as a squad leader and honor graduate  
6 for advanced infantry training at Fort Benning and is a master parachutist and a master  
7 jumpmaster, having conducted more than 250 parachute operations; and
- 8 WHEREAS, his first combat tour was as platoon sergeant in Operation Desert Shield and  
9 Desert Storm, and he has now returned from his third assignment in Iraq; and
- 10 WHEREAS, over the course of Operation Desert Storm, he received his first Bronze Star and  
11 has since received two more for his recent combat service for developing a formidable  
12 defense plan for the division's forward operating base, located in a highly volatile area of  
13 operations; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he is one of the few who has served the Old Guard as Commander of Relief and  
15 Sergeant of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and  
16 was responsible for selection, training, and conduct of all assigned sentinels; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he has served as presidential escort and assisted three Presidents of the United  
18 States and numerous heads of state visiting the tomb; and
- 19 WHEREAS, among the many awards he has received, in addition to three Bronze Stars, are  
20 the Legion of Merit and Defense Meritorious Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, four  
21 Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, Combat Infantryman's

1 Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutists Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Tomb  
2 of Unknown Soldier Guard Identification Badge, French Parachutists Badge, Canadian  
3 Parachutists Badge, and numerous campaign medals; and

4 WHEREAS, there can be no doubt that Sergeant Major Michael Duke is among the finest  
5 citizens and military men the State of Georgia and our United States has ever produced.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
7 this body wholeheartedly commends Sergeant Major Michael Henry Duke for his selfless,  
8 brave, and unparalleled service to our nation and this state and acknowledges that because  
9 of his dedication, the United States is a safer and better nation in which to live.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Sergeant Major Michael  
12 Henry Duke.