

## House Resolution 430

By: Representatives Williams of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Dickson of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending United States Marine Sergeant Joey Jones and inviting him  
2 to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, U.S. Marine Sgt. Joey Jones, a native of Dawnville, Georgia, has served as a  
4 guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Marine Corps, valiantly  
5 and courageously protecting his fellow Americans by serving in Afghanistan as a Marine  
6 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician; and

7 WHEREAS, Sgt. Jones joined the Marine Corps in 2004 after graduating from Southeast  
8 High School, serving in a variety of roles from a communications technician to a machine  
9 gunner in a security detail and later becoming an EOD technician by completing a nearly  
10 year-long course in the field aspects of nuclear, conventional, and biological explosives along  
11 with their electronic components; and

12 WHEREAS, Sgt. Jones deployed to Afghanistan last spring, and he and his Marine Fox  
13 Company were featured on ABC's *Nightline* news program in which a news crew followed  
14 Sgt. Jones and his partner through an Afghanistan town as they prepared to detonate a  
15 roadside bomb; and

16 WHEREAS, on August 6, 2010, he experienced a life-changing blast from an IED during a  
17 six-day sweep working nonstop in the southern Afghanistan town of Safar Bazaar to secure  
18 the area and locate and detonate any IEDs; and

19 WHEREAS, after the blast, he knew he had lost both legs and had incurred serious trauma  
20 to both arms and asked a fellow Marine to pray with him; and

21 WHEREAS, he was taken by a Medevac helicopter to a military hospital in Germany, where  
22 he stayed for two days while his condition was stabilized, and then flown to the National

23 Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where he was in intensive care and  
24 experienced unbearable pain; and

25 WHEREAS, he was then transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he has  
26 made physical strides daily and faces a long and arduous recovery process of physical  
27 therapy and rehabilitation; and

28 WHEREAS, he has his devoted parents, Joey and Joyce, sister Marsha, and girlfriend, Meg  
29 Garrison, to lean on for support and encouragement and also draws strength and motivation  
30 from his much loved son, Braiden; and

31 WHEREAS, in spite of his circumstances, Sgt. Jones is working with Marine officials on a  
32 proposal to return to the military and Afghanistan as an EOD technician as an instructor or  
33 to conduct range sweeps; and

34 WHEREAS, Sgt. Jones, his story, and his strength and positive attitude provide an  
35 inspiration to the people of Dalton and of this state and are embodied in Sgt. Jones's words  
36 when he stated: "I can't say I'm a happier person, but I am a happy person because I do have  
37 the people that I care about most in my life around me"; and

38 WHEREAS, U.S. Marine Sgt. Joey Jones embodies the spirit of service, willing to find  
39 meaning in something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the  
40 outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of this special Georgian be honored  
41 appropriately.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 the members of this body express their most profound appreciation for U.S. Marine Sgt. Joey  
44 Jones and invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to  
45 be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to U.S. Marine Sgt. Joey  
48 Jones.