

House Resolution 1983

By: Representatives Morris of the 155th, Meadows of the 5th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Hill of the 21st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Siege of Beirut on the occasion of its 30th anniversary and honoring the life
2 and memory of its lost veterans; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Siege of Beirut took place as part of the Lebanon War in the summer of
4 1982, which resulted from the breakdown of the cease-fire effected by the United Nations
5 and ended with the Palestinian Liberation Organization being forced out of Beirut and
6 Lebanon; and

7 WHEREAS, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon in an attack on anti-Israel forces in June of 1982,
8 during which time the administration of President Ronald Reagan became concerned over
9 the region's instability and opted to land Marines at Beirut in August to help restore stability
10 in the divided country, but the 800 man unit was withdrawn in 15 days; and

11 WHEREAS, negotiating with its Western allies, the United States participated in a
12 multinational stability effort in the fall of 1982 and two U.S. military missions were
13 established; and

14 WHEREAS, Army Special Forces units were deployed to Beirut with the task of training
15 pro-Western Lebanese forces, U.S. Marines were assigned to protect the Beirut airport, and
16 the Navy established a naval bombardment to protect the Marines; and

17 WHEREAS, in mid-April of 1983 a truck bomb exploded near the U.S. Embassy in Beirut,
18 killing more than 60 people, including 17 Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, on October 23, 1983, a terrorist drove a truck loaded with explosives into
20 Marine headquarters and detonated the load, killing 241 of the 300 Marines asleep in the
21 building; and

22 WHEREAS, the Marines were withdrawn from Lebanon on February 26, 1984, and in March
23 the U.S. announced its abandonment of the multinational security effort though Army Special
24 Forces remained in Lebanon and continued their mission for a few more months without
25 incident; and

26 WHEREAS, the Siege of Beirut resulted in more than 6,700 people killed, most of whom
27 were civilians; and

28 WHEREAS, veterans of the Siege of Beirut embody the spirit of service, willing to find
29 meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that
30 the outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished
31 Americans be honored appropriately.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body honor the lives and memories and the selfless sacrifice of the
34 soldiers, Marines, and sailors who offered their lives in the name of freedom during the Siege
35 of Beirut and recognize the 30th anniversary of the Siege of Beirut.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.