



# NEW MEXICO STATE CONFERENCE

MILITARY # 2



## LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO April 28, 2007

### RESOLUTION



### CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD FOR MARINE SGT. RAFAEL PERALTA

WHEREAS, Rafael Peralta, a Mexican-American who lived in San Diego, California, wanted to join the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in San Diego in 1997

WHEREAS, Peralta was a Mexican citizen who had to wait until 2000 to received his legal residency and became a U.S. citizen

WHEREAS, Peralta joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to the Kaneohe's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines Regiment in November 2003 which arrived in Iraq in October 2004.

WHEREAS, the Kaneohee Marines' mission was to clear the city of insurgents building by building, Peralta was hit several times in the upper torso and face at point-blank range by the fully automatic 7.62 mm weapons employed by three terrorists. Mortally wounded, he jumped into the already cleared adjoining room, giving the rest of the Marines a clear line of fire.

WHEREAS, fellow Marines battled the insurgents that shot Peralta, when a live grenade bounced into the room near the severely wounded Marine.

WHEREAS, Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade into his body, protecting the lives of several fellow Kaneohe Marines

WHEREAS, Peralta was a platoon scout in the Kaneohe unit, which meant he could have stayed back in safety while the squads of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went into danger-filled streets. But Peralta was constantly asking to help

WHEREAS, Peralta was killed on November 15, 2004, during the second battle of Fallujah. He was one of the 42 Marines and two Navy corpsmen assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion who were killed in the unit's first deployment to Iraq.

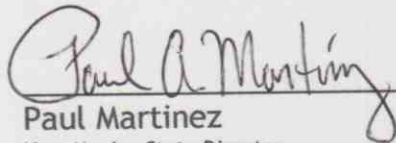
WHEREAS, Cpl. Richard A. Mason said to other Marines in recognition of Sgt. Peralta's actions, "You're still here, don't forget that. Tell you kids, your grand kids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today."

WHEREAS, a spokesman for the Marine Base in Hawaii confirmed that the name of Peralta, 25, had been submitted for the Medal of Honor for saving the lives of four members of his platoon.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: that the United States Congress award the Congressional Medal of Honor to Sgt. Rafael Peralta USMC for his heroic deeds beyond the call of duty with intrepidity.

SUBMITTED BY: Alfredo Lugo, Member New Mexico LULAC Council 120

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand for the League of United Latin America Citizens, New Mexico this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007



Paul Martinez  
New Mexico State Director  
League of United Latin American Citizens



Olivia Joy  
State Secretary

