

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Corporal Kelsee Lainhart of the United States Marine Corps for her valiant service during the evacuation of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

RAATZ, PERFECT

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Corporal
2 Kelsee Lainhart of the United States Marine Corps for her
3 valiant service during the evacuation of the Hamid Karzai
4 International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

5 *Whereas, In 2021, the United States began the withdrawal*
6 *of the 2,500 soldiers that remained in Afghanistan after the*
7 *nearly 20-year-long war;*

8 *Whereas, On May 1, 2021, as U.S. forces withdrew, the*
9 *Taliban began an offensive to topple the Islamic Republic of*
10 *Afghanistan;*

11 *Whereas, The Taliban effectively obtained their objective*
12 *on August 15, 2021, when they seized the presidential palace in*
13 *Kabul after the elected president fled the country;*

14 *Whereas, Despite the Taliban takeover, a small pocket of*
15 *American troops retained control of the Hamid Karzai*
16 *International Airport in Kabul;*

17 *Whereas, The troops that remained in the airport were*
18 *engaged in what is believed to be the largest airlift in American*
19 *history, evacuating more than 100,000 terrified men, women,*
20 *and children attempting to flee the Taliban before all U.S.*
21 *forces left the country on August 31;*

22 *Whereas, Nineteen-year-old Corporal Kelsee Lainhart from*
23 *Dearborn County was one of the soldiers assigned to the*
24 *airport just days before the deadline for withdrawal, and she*



1 *was focused on the mission to help as many people as she could*
2 *find freedom from the Taliban;*

3 *Whereas, On August 26, 2021, a mass of people assembled*
4 *outside the only open gate to the airport, and they were pushing*
5 *and straining to get through the gate, some passing out from*
6 *dehydration and others being crushed by their fellow evacuees;*

7 *Whereas, Corporal Lainhart was one of the troops helping*
8 *these desperate people escape, and she remembers helping a*
9 *small boy get over a wall to his waiting mother;*

10 *Whereas, At the precise moment Corporal Lainhart was*
11 *helping the boy, a suicide bomber detonated a 25-pound*
12 *explosive device concealed under his clothing, sending lethal,*
13 *5-millimeter ball bearings tearing through the crowd;*

14 *Whereas, Corporal Lainhart was among the many hit by*
15 *the shrapnel, suffering severe wounds that included a spinal*
16 *injury that has left her partially paralyzed;*

17 *Whereas, The blast killed as many as 170 Afghans and 13*
18 *American service members, including fellow Hoosier, Corporal*
19 *Humberto Sanchez, and Corporal Lainhart's close friend,*
20 *Sergeant Nicole L. Gee;*

21 *Whereas, Healing from these physical and psychological*
22 *injuries has been an arduous process and is far from over, but*
23 *Corporal Lainhart is undaunted and committed to walking*
24 *again;*

25 *Whereas, Despite her hardships, Corporal Lainhart does*
26 *not regret her Marine Corps service, has maintained a positive*
27 *outlook throughout, and knows that she is one of the lucky*
28 *ones; and*

29 *Whereas, The commitment and sacrifice of heroes like*
30 *Corporal Lainhart should be commemorated and remembered*
31 *for all time: Therefore,*



1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*
3 *concurring:*

4 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors
5 Corporal Kelsee Lainhart of the United States Marine Corps for
6 her valiant service during the evacuation of the Hamid Karzai
7 International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, and wishes her
8 godspeed in her recovery.

9 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
10 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Corporal Kelsee
11 Lainhart and her family.

