

A RESOLUTION commending Sergeant First Class Charles Martland for his honorable and courageous actions protecting a young Afghan boy and his mother from an Afghan police major, and requesting the Department of Defense to commend his brave actions instead of punishing him.

WHEREAS, the motto for the Green Berets is "De oppresso liber," representing that commitment to free the oppressed; and

WHEREAS, as a decorated member of the Special Forces, Sergeant First Class Charles Martland embraced the motto of the Green Berets of which he was an honored member; and

WHEREAS, while serving in Afghanistan, Sergeant First Class Martland was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism, for jumping in the turret of a damaged Humvee, exposing himself to enemy bullets while returning fire to help his teammates gather sensitive equipment after their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device; and

WHEREAS, according to a New York Times report, members of the United States Army and Marine Corps serving in Afghanistan were advised to observe cultural and religious practices and told that sexual abuse perpetrated by local allies was a matter of Afghan law; and

WHEREAS, one United States soldier said that, from his bunk at a base in southern Afghanistan, he could hear Afghan police officers sexually abusing boys they had brought to the base and that "at night we could hear them screaming but we're not allowed to do anything about it"; and

WHEREAS, fighting in a foreign theater of war should not require members of the Armed Forces to turn a blind eye toward criminal perversion; and

WHEREAS, protecting child predators is abhorrent and inconsistent with American values; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Sergeant First Class Martland courageously confronted a United States-backed Afghan military commander "for keeping a boy chained to his bed

as a sex slave"; and

WHEREAS, instead of commending Sergeant First Class Martland for standing up to a child predator, the Army decided to involuntarily discharge him from the service; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be rewarded, not punished, for upholding American values;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives commends and honors the courageous actions taken by Sergeant First Class Charles Martland and denounces any attempt to punish him.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives strongly suggests that Sergeant First Class Charles Martland should be reinstated as a member of the United States Army and face no further penalty for protecting a young child from a sexual predator.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of Defense, 1400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-1400.