

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1229

By Hodges

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend General James Norman Mattis, United States Marine Corps (ret.) for his meritorious service to the United States of America.

WHEREAS, we take great pride in paying tribute to those exemplary citizens who have devoted their careers and themselves to service in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, one such heroic citizen is General James Norman Mattis, United States Marine Corps (ret.), who rendered meritorious service to this State and nation during his forty-four year tenure with the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, General James Mattis ably commanded American troops in the Persian Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, and the Iraq War and served with distinction as the 26th U.S. Secretary of Defense from January 2017 through January 2019; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pullman, Washington, and son of Lucile Proulx Mattis and John West Mattis, James Norman Mattis enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1969 and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps on January 1, 1972; and

WHEREAS, General Mattis holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Central Washington University and a Master of Arts in international security affairs from the National War College of National Defense University; he is a graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the National War College; and

WHEREAS, as a lieutenant, General Mattis served as a rifle and weapons platoon commander in the 3rd Marine Division; as a captain, he was assigned as the Naval Academy Preparatory School's Battalion Officer, commanded rifle and weapons companies with the 1st Marine Regiment, and then served at Recruiting Station Portland, Oregon, as a major; and

WHEREAS, upon his promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel, General Mattis commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, which was one of Task Force Ripper's assault battalions during the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, next holding the rank of colonel, General James Mattis commanded the 7th Marine Regiment during the War in Afghanistan and led the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade as its commanding officer upon his promotion to brigadier general; and

WHEREAS, General Mattis held the rank of major general during the Iraq War and commanded the 1st Marine Division during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and took command of the Marine Corps Development Command upon his promotion to lieutenant general; and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2006, he was chosen to take command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and was appointed to the rank of general to command the U.S. Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) in Norfolk, Virginia, by President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, General Mattis was promoted to four-star general and took control of JFCOM/Supreme Allied Commander Transformation on November 9, 2007, and was confirmed by the Senate after presidential nomination to serve as commander of United States Central Command on August 11, 2010; and

WHEREAS, as head of Central Command, General Mattis oversaw the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and served with distinction before taking his much deserved retirement in March 2013, completing forty-four years of service with the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exemplary military service, General James Mattis has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Navy Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Navy and Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation; the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the Navy Unit Commendation; the Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Unit Commendation; the Marine Corps Expeditionary

Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Stars; the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star; the Iraq Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the Sea Service Ribbon with one Silver Star and two Bronze Stars; the Marine Corps Recruiting Service Ribbon with one Bronze Star; the Polish Army Medal; the NATO Meritorious Service Medal; the NATO Medal for Service with ISAF; the Meritorious Service Cross (Canada); the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait); the Rifle Expert Badge; the Pistol Expert Badge; and the Office of Secretary of Defense Identification Badge; and

WHEREAS, General Mattis has also received the Center for National Policy's Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Award, the Atlantic Council's Distinguished Military Leadership Award, the World Affairs Council of Greater Hampton Roads Ryan C. Crocker Global Citizen of the Year Award, the Marine Corps University Foundation Semper Fidelis Award, and the Washington Policy Center Champion of Freedom Award; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that General James Mattis should be specially recognized, as he has distinguished himself as a leader of the greatest dedication and ability; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend General James Norman Mattis for his unrivaled service with the United States Marine Corps, thank him for his years of devoted service to his country as a military officer, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.