

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR10193-LG-492 (03/26)

Sponsors: Representative Tucker.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERING THE REMAINS OF
2 LANCE CORPORAL JOSEPH NELSON HARGROVE FROM THE ISLAND OF
3 KOH TANG, CAMBODIA.

4 Whereas, on May 12, 1975, the ship SS Mayaguez was seized by Cambodian
5 forces and hostages were taken; and

6 Whereas, on May 15, 1975, military operations were initiated on Koh Tang
7 Island for the purpose of freeing the hostages; and

8 Whereas, Lance Corporal Joseph N. Hargrove along with his gunnery crew,
9 Private 1st Class Gary L. Hall and Private Danny Marshall, were in the second wave of
10 the assault on the island; and

11 Whereas, after one full day of hostilities, the United States forces set up a
12 perimeter on the west shore for the purpose of withdrawing from the island; and

13 Whereas, Joseph Hargrove and his gunnery crew were ordered to set up on
14 the extreme right of that perimeter and to hold that position at all cost; and

15 Whereas, these three marines executed their orders faithfully and held their
16 position as ordered; and

17 Whereas, based on eyewitness accounts by fellow marines, because of their
18 bravery and as a result of their actions, the lives of fellow marines were saved; and

19 Whereas, according to Khmer Rouge accounts, Joseph Hargrove and his
20 gunnery crew stopped Khmer Rouge forces from advancing towards the perimeter,
21 which helped in reducing the number of American casualties; and

22 Whereas, these three marines were left behind at the mercy of the Khmer
23 Rouge; and

24 Whereas, Joseph Hargrove was captured and executed on May 16, 1975, by
25 the order of Em Son, Commander of the Khmer Rouge forces; and

26 Whereas, Joseph Hargrove's gravesite was positively identified on Koh Tang
27 Island in 2001, but after six years, his remains have not been recovered and returned to
28 his family in Duplin County; Now, therefore,

1 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

2 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly urges the Department of Defense to
3 take measures to recover the remains of Lance Corporal Joseph Nelson Hargrove from
4 the Island of Koh Tang, Cambodia.

5 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
6 resolution to Department of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

7 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.