



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010

House of Representatives

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE OF VETERANS OF HELICOPTER ATTACK LIGHT SQUADRON THREE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Madam Speaker, I want to thank first the Committee on Armed Services for working with us to bring this bill to the floor. This resolution recognizes and honors the veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and their families and is sponsored by Mr. Boozman of Arkansas. The resolution recognizes the extraordinary courage of the nearly 3,000 veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three, also known as HAL-3, who served in Vietnam from 1967 to March of 1972.

The resolution also serves to honor the enormous sacrifice of the 44 members of HAL-3 who gave their lives while serving alongside their comrades in support of military operations in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. This remarkable unit earned six Presidential Unit Citations, five Navy Crosses, 31 Silver Stars, 219 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 156 Purple Hearts, among numerous other awards and unit citations, making it possibly the most decorated Navy squadron during the Vietnam War.

Between 1967 and 1972, HAL-3 flew over 130,000 hours of combat and logistical support, inflicted thousands of

casualties on enemy forces, performed 1,530 medical evacuations, carried more than 37,000 passengers, and delivered more than 1 million pounds of cargo to their destinations. The unit's expert maintenance and support personnel worked tirelessly to ensure that the squadron's aircraft were operationally ready and that its crews were provided with the daily support needed to accomplish their dangerous and critically important missions.

This resolution serves to honor the families of the HAL-3 veterans for their support and to express our condolences to the families and comrades of those killed in action. Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three left behind a combat and humanitarian record recognized as bringing great credit upon the United States Navy and its role in the Vietnam War. Passing this resolution is the least we can do to honor the service and enormous sacrifice of the Americans that constituted such a valorous unit in naval aviation history.