

[Supporting Lieutenant Ehren Watada's public statements expressing legal and moral objections to the war in Iraq and urging the end to court martial proceedings against him.]

Resolution supporting Lieutenant Ehren Watada's public statements expressing legal and moral objections to the war in Iraq and urging the end to court martial proceedings against him.

WHEREAS, Ehren Watada enlisted in the army after finishing college because he wanted to aid his country after the September 11 terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, He has been deployed in Afghanistan and Korea, and has received good reviews for his service; and,

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Ehren Watada became convinced that the war in Iraq is unlawful and that he has a duty as an officer not to participate in it; and,

WHEREAS, When he learned that his unit was to be deployed to Iraq, he made requests to be transferred elsewhere, but they were denied; and,

WHEREAS, In early June, he discussed his views on the war publicly, holding a press conference and speaking to individual reporters; and,

WHEREAS, On June 22, 2006, he refused to board the bus for his deployment to Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, In addition to charges against Lieutenant Watada for refusal to report to duty, the military is seeking to penalize Lieutenant Watada for statements he made to reporters expressing his objections to the United States' involvement in the war in Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, In his public remarks, Lieutenant Watada stated "I speak with you about a radical idea. It is one born from the very concept of the American soldier. It became

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1 instrumental in ending the Vietnam War – but it has been long since forgotten. The idea is
2 this: that to stop an illegal and unjust war, the soldiers can choose to stop fighting it;” and,

3 WHEREAS, He stated that a soldier “must remember duty to the Constitution and the
4 people supersedes the ideologies of their leadership;” and,

5 WHEREAS, He further stated that “neither Congress nor this administration has the
6 authority to violate the prohibition against pre-emptive war;” and,

7 WHEREAS, He is being charged with violating two articles of the Uniform Code of
8 Military Justice: Article 88, which prohibits use of “contemptuous words” against the President
9 and the other top governmental officials; and Article 133, which prohibits “conduct
10 unbecoming an officer” – that is, behavior which dishonors or disgraces an officer or “seriously
11 compromises the officer’s character as a gentleman; and,

12 WHEREAS, The purpose of Lieutenant Watada’s public remarks was to explain the
13 motivations for his actions; and,

14 WHEREAS, While one may disagree with Lieutenant Watada’s opinions on the war’s
15 legality, his expression of those opinions reflected his deeply felt beliefs and showed a
16 seriousness of purpose and high moral character; and,

17 WHEREAS, In speaking his mind, Lieutenant Watada expressed sharp disagreement
18 with government policies and the actions of the President, but he did not use contemptuous
19 language and did not behave in a dishonorable manner; and,

20 WHEREAS, On September 15, 2006, Lieutenant Watada was referred to a general
21 court martial on five charges for political speech including an additional charge of speech
22 crime; and,

23 WHEREAS, Fort Lewis’ Commanding General, Lieutenant General James Dubik
24 makes the final decision on whether to proceed to court-martial on any or all charges; now,
25 therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Lieutenant
2 Watada's right to refuse an illegal war; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges that court
4 martial proceedings not be brought against Lieutenant Watada for exercising his first
5 amendment right to freedom of speech; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
7 to send a copy of this resolution to President George Bush, U.S. Attorney General Alberto
8 Gonzales, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi,
9 members of the California Congressional Delegation, and to Commanding General Lieutenant
10 General James M. Dubik.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 061323

Date Passed:

Resolution supporting Lieutenant Ehren Watada's public statements expressing legal and moral objections to the war in Iraq and urging the end to court martial proceedings against him.

September 26, 2006 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - Alioto-Pier

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 26, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Handwritten signature of Gloria L. Young]

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

OCT - 4 2006

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: October 6, 2006

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

[Handwritten signature of Kay Gulbenkian]
Clerk of the Board

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061323