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# Lawmaker: Issue stamp to honor Beirut fallen

Staff report

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JACKSONVILLE, N.C. — For more than two decades, survivors and families of those who served in Lebanon have asked the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp commemorating the Beirut peacekeeping mission.

Now, they're getting congressional backing.

Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., introduced a resolution Tuesday expressing the opinion of the House that a commemorative stamp should be issued to remember the victims and honor the veterans of the mission, according to a press release.

More than 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers were killed Oct. 23, 1983, when a terrorist drove a bomb-laden truck into their barracks. A total of 273 servicemen died during the peacekeeping mission from 1982 to 1984.

"Since the tragic events of September 11th, Americans have joined in

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solidarity to defend the ideals upon which our nation was founded, and to combat the evils of terrorism,” Jones said in the release. “We must not forget that the soldiers who lost their lives in Beirut were some of our first victims of terror. These soldiers went to restore peace in a war-torn nation. A commemorative stamp in their honor would not just further mourn their loss, but would celebrate peace in the American spirit that was embodied in the mission of these fallen heroes.”

Most of those killed in the attack were Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based Marines. Each year, a memorial service is held in Jacksonville, N.C., at the Beirut Memorial, which contains the names of those killed during the peacekeeping mission.

“Families and friends in 36 states across the U.S. lost loved ones in and around Beirut in 1983,” Jones said. “There is scant justification for failing to seize the opportunity to recognize those who have given so much for our country.”

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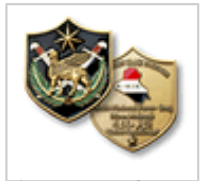
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