

Legislation Text

File #: 140955, **Version:** 0

Honoring Master Gunnery Sergeant James J. Babst Jr.'s retirement from the United States Marine Corps and celebrating his 30 years of faithful and honorable service.

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Archbishop Ryan High School, Master Gunnery Sergeant Babst enlisted in the Marine Corps on December 3, 1984. MGySgt Babst completed a Basic Electronics Course before reporting to 7th Communication Bn, in Okinawa, Japan in 1986 where he was recognized as the 7th Communication Bn "Marine of the Quarter" for FY87 (3rd Quarter) and meritoriously promoted to Corporal prior to redeploying back the states; and

WHEREAS, In November 1987, MGySgt Babst reported for duty at Camp LeJeune, NC where he was promoted to Sergeant in November 1988. While attending college full time, MGySgt Babst joined the reserves with Head Quarters Battery, 3rd Bn, 14th Marines (Philadelphia, PA) in September 1989. He graduated from Robert Morris University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, In March 1993, MGySgt Babst became the Squadron Training Chief, Marine Wing Support Squadron 474, Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, PA. MGySgt Babst was promoted to Staff Sergeant in 1995; and

WHEREAS, In January 2001 MGySgt Babst transferred to Marine Heavy Helicopter 772. The reserves unit was activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and subsequently attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and deployed overseas. During that time, the MEU participated in Operation Dynamic Response (Kosovo), Operation Southern Watch (Persian Gulf), Horn of Africa and Operation Iraq Freedom; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, MGySgt Babst assumed the role of Ground Movement Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor and deployed to Korea where he was promoted to Master Sergeant and Operation Chief; and

WHEREAS, In January 2011, MGySgt Babst was activated again. He deployed to Afghanistan and was responsible for Marines throughout Regional Command South and Southwest. He also assisted the 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group and NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan as a firefighter advisor to the Afghan Air Force; and

WHEREAS, In March 2012, MGySgt Babst transferred to his current assignment as the Reserve Support Officer, RS Harrisburg and Senior Enlisted Adviser, 1st Marine Corps District. He began to share his leadership experiences with the community and worked with the American Legion Boys State as a mentor to over 200 high school students in Quantico, VA; and

WHEREAS, MGySgt Babst received numerous commendations and awards including the following: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, National Defense Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Kosovo Campaign, Afghanistan Campaign,

Iraqi Campaign, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, Korean Defense Service, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve, Silver Hour Glass and #2, and NATO Medals including gold, silver and bronze stars; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his service in the Marines, MGySgt Babst has also been with the Philadelphia Fire Department for 18 years and currently serves as Captain at Engine 46; and

WHEREAS, MGySgt Babst and his wife Pamela have been married for 18 years and have a 16-year-old son, Zachary. The Babst's live in the Northeast Section of Philadelphia where he was born and raised; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, that it hereby honors Master Gunnery Sergeant James J. Babst, Jr. upon his retirement from the United States Marine Corps and celebrates his 30 years of faithful and honorable service.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Master Gunnery Sergeant James J. Babst, Jr. as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.