

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
26th Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Recognizing:

Corporal Richard Pelletier, Jr., of Madawaska, for his tireless advocacy and lobbying for veterans' rights. Corporal Pelletier is devoted to helping veterans by advising them of their potential benefits and helping them prepare claims. As American Legion Service Officer for American Legion Post No. 143 in Fort Kent, he has responded promptly and effectively to the needs of his fellow veterans by negotiating with state and federal bureaucracies. Last year, while perusing the Canadian news on the Internet, he discovered that Agents Orange, Purple and White had been sprayed in the past over the Canadian military post in Gagetown, New Brunswick, where the Maine National Guard has trained over the years. His findings prompted an investigation on the American side of the border. Corporal Pelletier served in the United States Marine Corps and the Maine Army National Guard in the 1970s. He sustained injuries while serving in the Marines. He has been awarded a Citation for Meritorious Service from the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. He is a lifetime member of and van driver for the Disabled American Veterans, a hospice volunteer and a CCD teacher. Corporal Pelletier is the son of Richard and Claudine Pelletier and the father of Alan, Robin, Ritchie and Chantalle. We extend our appreciation to Corporal Pelletier for his commitment to the veterans of this State;

(HLS 1751)

Presented by Representative PARADIS of Frenchville.

Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook, Representative SMITH of Van Buren, Representative JACKSON of Allagash.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DUDLEY of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: La Président reconnaît le Député de Portland, Député Dudley. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Dudley.

Representative **DUDLEY**: Richard has committed his life to the military veterans who are too often forgotten by the very country they believe in, have fought for and bravely sacrificed much in defending America around the globe. Richard is one of the best advocates a former soldier can meet. He is completely focused, relentless, loyal and fearless in tackling federal or state bureaucracy in the quest for justice for America's veterans.

Richard nous a démontré un courage extraordinaire dans sa vie personnelle et dans sa mission de donner à nos vétérans tous les soins qui leur faut. Il a subi un accident terrible sur la route; sa voiture avait frappé un gros camion. Les deux jambes mal cassées, on ne s'attendait pas à ce qu'il puisse marcher le reste de sa vie. Mais grâce à un courage extraordinaire et une foi profonde, il a réappris à marcher.

Richard has displayed extraordinary courage in his personal life and in his mission to find the veterans all the care they need. He suffered a terrible accident several years ago when his car hit a tractor-trailer. Both his legs were so terribly smashed that it was feared that he would never walk again, but through extraordinary courage and a deep faith he learned to walk again.

C'est ce même courage qu'il apporte à sa grande lutte pour les vétérans.

That's the same courage that he brings to his battle for veterans rights.

Subsequently, the Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.