

House Engrossed

twentieth anniversary; death; Lori Piestewa

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2047**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

HONORING AND REMEMBERING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST LORI ANN PIESTEWA  
ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe, was born in  
2 Tuba City, Arizona, on December 14, 1979 to Terry Piestewa, a Hopi Native  
3 American, and Priscilla Baca, who is of Mexican descent; and

4           Whereas, Lori Piestewa was given the name Qotsa-Hon-Mana (kotsa hon  
5 mana), which translates to White Bear Girl, with her surname, Piestewa,  
6 deriving from the Hopi language root meaning "water pooled in the desert  
7 by a hard rain"; and

8           Whereas, those who knew her described Lori Piestewa as having a  
9 strong sense of duty to the people around her, always doing what was right  
10 and having a strong ethical and moral code; and

11           Whereas, in March 2001, Lori Piestewa enlisted in the United States  
12 Army and left for basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. She was assigned  
13 to the 507th Maintenance Company in Fort Bliss, Texas, where she rose to  
14 the rank of Private First Class; and

15           Whereas, on March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the  
16 invasion of Iraq as part of the global war on terror. As this was the  
17 first war in which American women could actively participate in combat  
18 units, Lori Piestewa was deployed to fight for her country as part of the  
19 507th Maintenance Company; and

20           Whereas, three days later, on March 23, Lori Piestewa's convoy ran  
21 into an ambush and came under a torrent of fire that included a  
22 rocket-propelled grenade that caused her fatal crash. Lori Piestewa became  
23 the first Native American Woman to die in combat while serving in the  
24 United States military and the first woman in the United States military  
25 to be killed in the Iraq War; and

26           Whereas, Lori Piestewa left behind her parents and two children.  
27 Her son, Brandon Whiterock, explains that the Hopi people strive for  
28 harmony, so her final moments were not a violent struggle for survival,  
29 and there is some comfort, however small, in knowing that Lori Piestewa  
30 died trying to help her friends escape; and

31           Whereas, Lori Piestewa was awarded the Purple Heart and Prisoner of  
32 War Medal and was promoted posthumously to Specialist for the bravery,  
33 dedication and fearlessness she showed while serving her country; and

34           Whereas, Lori Piestewa's family has joined other Gold Star Families  
35 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the ambush at Nasiriyah on March 23rd  
36 this year with the Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial with a sunrise ceremony  
37 to honor our fallen heroes.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
40 the Senate concurring:

41           That the Members of the Legislature honor United States Army  
42 Specialist Lori Ann Piestewa and the Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial and  
43 encourage the citizens of Arizona to commemorate the tremendous bravery  
44 and patriotism of individuals such as she who made the ultimate sacrifice  
45 for our country.