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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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January 25, 2011

To: **All Members of the House of Representatives**  
From: **Representative Bill Kortz** *BK*  
Subject: **Battle of Iwo Jima 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Resolution**

**MEMORANDUM**

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution to pay tribute to the heroic efforts and sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces during the Battle of Iwo Jima on February 19, 2011, the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day on which this 36-day historical battle began.

Most historians agree that the Battle of Iwo Jima was strategically important for the United States and its allies to establish air and sea blockades and to conduct intensive air bombardment exercises, which ultimately helped destroy the enemy's air and naval capabilities. The victory at Iwo Jima was a necessary feat, but one that came at a great price. The U.S. Department of Defense estimates that Iwo Jima was the site of the most horrific amphibious assault of World War II, one in which nearly 70,000 Marines fought a brutal battle against 21,000 Japanese soldiers. Sadly, the Battle at Iwo Jima resulted in approximately 28,000 U.S. casualties, including the tragic deaths of an estimated 6,821 Americans, and remains the most costly battle in the Marine Corps history.

My resolution designates February 19, 2011, as a day of reflection for all Pennsylvanians and our fellow Americans to pay tribute to the courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who were involved in the Battle of Iwo Jima as well as those brave men and women who are serving our country abroad and at home today.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important resolution, please contact Stephanie Jackson in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-8175 or e-mail [sjackson@pahouse.net](mailto:sjackson@pahouse.net). Thank you.