

RESOLUTION 2014 – 275

WHEREAS, 25-year old United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and received a meritorious battle promotion to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Afghanistan's Helmand Province with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment; and

WHEREAS, following his service to our nation with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan, Sgt. Tahmooressi was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Tahmooressi moved to San Diego, California to receive treatment for PTSD from the United States Veterans Affairs Medical Center – San Diego in La Jolla, California. While driving on March 31, 2014 he mistakenly crossed the border into Mexico after taking a wrong turn; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Tahmooressi placed a call to 911 to report his error, informing the 911 dispatcher that he had three legally registered guns in his possession because he kept everything he owned in his Ford F-150 truck; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Tahmooressi was arrested at the United States-Mexican border on March 31, 2014 and was charged with weapons trafficking. He is still being held in the El Hongo 11 Prison in Tecate, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Tahmooressi alleges that abuse during the beginning of his incarceration and poor prison conditions led him to attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, PTSD can result in hyper-vigilance, memory and cognition lapses and depression. Sgt. Tahmooressi's reported actions of aggression and physical self-abuse are likely manifestations of his PTSD; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Tahmooressi's immediate release would allow him to enroll in medical treatment at a clinic specializing in combat-related PTSD in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders is outraged that a United States Marine Corps veteran who has served two tours of duty in Afghanistan remains wrongfully imprisoned in Mexico

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey hereby strongly urges the President of the United States to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to immediately secure the release of United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody to the United States in order for Sgt. Tahmooressi to receive the appropriate medical assistance for his medical condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Honorable President of the United States, Barack H. Obama, the Speaker of the House, John Boehner, United States Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell, Members of the 9th, 10th, 12th and 30th Legislative Districts and all Ocean County Mayors.

CERTIFICATION

I, Diane B. Ambrosio, Clerk of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 13th day of March 2014.

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk