

TO CONFER STATUS AS AN HONORARY VETERAN OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ON LESLIE TOWNES
(BOB) HOPE

JUNE 3, 1997.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. STUMP, from the Committee on Veterans'
Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.J. Res. 75]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) to confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

INTRODUCTION

On April 30, 1997, the Honorable Bob Stump, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Honorable Lane Evans, Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and other members introduced H.J. Res. 75, to recognize entertainer Bob Hope as an honorary veteran.

The full Committee met on May 21, 1997 and ordered H.J. Res. 75 reported favorably to the House by unanimous voice vote.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTED BILL

H.J. Res. 75 would:

1. Extend the gratitude of the American people to entertainer Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope.
2. Confer upon Bob Hope the status of honorary veteran for his lasting contribution to American society by entertaining this nation's troops overseas from World War II through the Persian Gulf War.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Bob Hope has been successful in all areas of show business, but the Committee believes Hope's most important contribution to American society was entertaining this nation's troops overseas as the GI's entertainer. Having attempted to enlist in the Armed Forces to serve his adopted country During World War II, he was informed that his greatest service would be as a civilian entertainer for the troops. This he did with unmatched diligence, perseverance and grace.

From World War II through the Persian Gulf War, Bob Hope performed for millions of American GIs stationed all over the world. He performed in some 45 United Services Organizations (USO) tours in more than 40 countries, and his annual Christmas show lasted 22 years.

As far as the Committee can determine, honoring Bob Hope in this fashion would mark the first time Congress has bestowed such an accolade. The Committee acknowledges that such accolades should be accorded only after a thorough review of a person's service to veterans throughout his or her life and should be viewed as an honor. Bob Hope has performed such remarkable service. This measure enjoys the full support of the major veterans organizations.

Cited by the Guinness Book of Records as "the most honored" entertainer in the world, Hope has received more than 50 honorary doctorates, and is the recipient of thousands of awards, including prestigious honors from the major veterans organizations. His humanitarian work was recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal. President Johnson honored Hope with the Medal of Freedom, and President Clinton bestowed on him a Medal of the Arts. The United States Navy recently dedicated the USNS BOB HOPE (T-AKR 300), the lead ship in a new class of Strategic Sealift vessels. On April 22, the Air Force dedicated its newest C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in the name of Bob Hope for his contributions to the Air Force.

The Committee has determined that the time has come for Congress to recognize his valuable contributions on behalf of America's grateful veterans and to thank and honor him for the memories he has given to all Americans.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS

The Committee has not requested the Administration's comment on this resolution.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

No oversight findings have been submitted to the Committee by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

The following letter was received from the Congressional Budget Office concerning the cost of the reported resolution:

U.S. CONGRESS,
 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 1997.

Hon. BOB STUMP,
*Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
 House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.J. Res. 75, a bill to confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mary Helen Petrus, who can be reached at 226-2840.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

Enclosure

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

H.J. Res. 75—A bill to confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 21, 1997

CBO estimates that H.J. Res. 75 would have no effect on the federal budget. The bill would give honorary veteran status to Bob Hope. According to information from the General Counsel's office in the Department of Veterans Affairs, making Mr. Hope an honorary veteran would not entitle him to receive veterans benefits because such benefits are available only to individuals who served on active duty in a military department.

Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.J. Res. 75 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimate was prepared by Mary Helen Petrus, who can be reached at 226-2840. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

The enactment of the reported resolution would have no inflationary impact.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The reported resolution would not be applicable to the legislative branch under the Congressional Accountability Act, Public Law 104-1.

STATEMENT OF FEDERAL MANDATES

The reported resolution would not establish a federal mandate under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, Public Law 104-4.

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, the reported resolution would be authorized by Congress' power "(T)o provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

