

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 27

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2003

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

JOINT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication, selfless service, and commitment of members of the Armed Forces and their families during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States.

Whereas the Global War on Terrorism began in response to the unprovoked terrorist attack on the United States

homeland on September 11, 2001, which resulted in the deaths of thousands of United States citizens;

Whereas Al Qaeda, which attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, remains a threat to the national security of the United States;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces of the United States, a total force comprised of active, National Guard, and Reserve personnel, have undertaken more than 17 months of courageous and successful operations against terrorism, not only in Afghanistan, but also worldwide;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, members of the United States Armed Forces have promoted homeland security throughout the United States by performing various missions, including providing security at the Nation's airports, protecting the public at special events, and patrolling the Nation's skies with combat air patrols;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are helping around the world to train the militaries of other nations in counter-terrorism operations;

Whereas these post-September 11, 2001, missions have been in addition to other regular military missions and have been performed without any permanent increase in the size of the Armed Forces;

Whereas more than 65 American servicemembers have died defending the Nation in the Global War on Terrorism and more than 210 have been wounded or injured;

Whereas nearly 225,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve components have been mobilized for active duty since the start of the Global War on Terrorism, of whom more than 166,000 remain on active duty, with thou-

sands facing a second year of active duty away from families and civilian employment;

Whereas more than 200,000 active-duty personnel have already been deployed to the Persian Gulf theater and thousands of Reservists and National Guard members have been alerted for mobilization or are deploying for a possible war with Iraq;

Whereas many employers in the Nation find their employees called to active duty in the National Guard and Reserve, and are themselves called upon in the spirit of patriotism to maintain job security for those mobilized personnel and their families;

Whereas the ability of members of the Armed Forces to perform their missions requires the support and sacrifice of their families and the commitment to go wherever the Nation needs them;

Whereas the Nation is engaged in an unprecedented global conflict that presents many new and dangerous challenges to the members of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas this global conflict will require the Nation's unflinching resolve and commitment to provide the Nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with the necessary resources required for victory: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That Congress—

4 (1) commends, and expresses the gratitude of
 5 the Nation to, all members of the United States
 6 Armed Forces (whether on active duty, in the Na-

1 tional Guard, or in the Reserves) who are fighting
2 the Global War on Terrorism;

3 (2) commends, and expresses the gratitude of
4 the Nation to, the employers who in the spirit of pa-
5 triotism maintain the job security of their mobilized
6 National Guard and Reserve employees;

7 (3) commends, and expresses the gratitude of
8 the Nation to, the families of those servicemembers
9 who have borne the burden of separation from their
10 loved ones and who have staunchly supported them
11 during the conduct of the Global War on Terrorism;

12 (4) expresses its condolences to the families of
13 the brave American servicemembers who have lost
14 their lives defending the Nation in the Global War
15 on Terrorism; and

16 (5) reaffirms that it stands united with the
17 President in the ongoing effort to defeat global ter-
18 rorism.

Passed the House of Representatives March 5,
2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.