

Michigan memorializing Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 319

Whereas, The proposed U.S. Department of Defense budget would dramatically cut commissary services throughout the nation and eliminate the nation's A-10 fleet, including aircraft at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge currently is home to 18 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and the more than 400 personnel related to that mission; and

Whereas, Our brave men and women in uniform benefit greatly from commissaries, and we should continue to provide them as part of their service. Slashing the commissary budget would likely lead to the closing of commissary stores at military installations throughout the nation. Commissary stores currently provide military families an affordable and convenient location to shop for groceries and other necessities. The U.S. Defense Commissary Agency found that commissaries save shoppers an average of 30.5 percent annually compared to off-base options; and

Whereas, The proposed cuts would have a dramatic effect on the lives and morale of the dedicated men and women who choose to serve our country at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and other U.S. military bases. The elimination of the A-10 fleet would place in jeopardy more than 400 jobs at Selfridge alone. Closing commissaries would increase living expenses for military families, essentially helping to balance the defense budget at the expense of the men and women who serve; and

Whereas, In Michigan, these proposed cuts would have immeasurable impacts on Macomb County and the local communities surrounding the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. For nearly a century, the base has been a source of community pride, local jobs, and local revenue as well as a key component of disaster response for the entire state and a vital base for our nation's homeland security; and

Whereas, The A-10 fleet should not be eliminated until replacement aircraft can be assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The proposed cuts would compound past, short-sighted decisions to transfer the A-10 aircraft to Selfridge despite the knowledge that these aircraft would be phased out. These decisions have made Selfridge vulnerable to closure in future Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Assigning replacement aircraft would not only maintain the viability of this important base for homeland security, but would also be cost-effective: the Air National Guard can operate aircraft at about half the cost of an active duty unit; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-247. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of the 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 41

Whereas, established in the year 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base, a United States Air Force Base located approximately 4.72 miles east-southeast of Bossier City, Louisiana, is named in honor of World War I aviator and test pilot 2nd Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale (1896-1926); and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has proudly served Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and is home to the Air Force's newest command, Air Force Global Strike Command, the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Mission Support Group, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Maintenance Group, the 2nd Medical Group, 8th Air Force Museum, and the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing; and

Whereas, the Red Horse unit, officially known as the 307th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, is a construction unit staffed with civil engineers, many of whom deployed to southwest Asia during the fall; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has grown into a major source of revenue and employment for the region by providing jobs for nearly ten thousand military and civilian employees; and

Whereas, under the Defense Department's 2015 proposed spending plan, the 307th Red Horse Squadron would be deactivated as the Air Force Reserve's authorized strength would nationally decrease by almost five percent, to 61,700 airmen; and

Whereas, under the 2015 defense spending plan, the Air Force Reserve would lose the rest of the Air Force Reserve's venerable fleet of A-10s, which are Cold War-era aircraft known as Warthogs; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base continues to be a huge priority for national security and for communities in the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the deactivation of the 307th Red Horse Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base will have an adverse effect on not only the economy, but the community as well: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-248. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those serving in the National Guard with veteran status; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 23

Whereas, the National Guard's roots date back to 1636, when colonial militias made up of ordinary citizens would put down their plows and pick up weapons to protect families and towns from hostile attacks; and

Whereas, commonly known as citizen-soldiers, members of today's National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college while

maintaining their military training part-time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas, while the National Guard originally focused on protecting local communities, it eventually grew into a force that complements the active-duty military when help is needed anywhere in the world, including serving overseas in combat-deployment roles; and

Whereas, although the National Guard's primary area of operation is the National Guard unit's home state, National Guard members are often called on by the President of the United States to respond to, among other things, homeland security missions, domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and reconstruction missions in addition to overseas combat missions; and

Whereas, while many National Guard members have similar duties and perform similar functions to their counterparts in the active-duty military, Title 38, United States Code, excludes from the definition of veteran, career reserve-component members who have not served on active duty under Title 10, United States Code, for other than training purposes; and

Whereas, a portion of the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, or S. 944, would honor as veterans any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of Title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service"; and

Whereas, this cost-neutral provision would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming veteran status for nearly 300,000 men and women who honorably served and sacrificed as career reserve-component members, giving these individuals the respect they deserve for their uniformed service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that Congress, including Hawaii's Congressional delegation, is urged to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those, serving in the National Guard with veteran status; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 280

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, a bill to ensure effective control over the Congressional budget process.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1346

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for small property and casualty insurance companies.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1971

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2169

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax regarding the taxation of distilled spirits.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. ENZI, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2285

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2285, a bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2362

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to prohibit the payment of performance awards in fiscal year 2015 to employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2374

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to improve college affordability.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the protection and enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator