

Whereas the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) is preparing for deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, now deployed in Iraq, predates the United States Army, traces its lineage to 1747, when Benjamin Franklin organized the "Associated Regiment of Foot" (currently 1-11th Infantry) in Philadelphia, and is the only unit in the National Guard to field the Stryker vehicle;

Whereas the Pennsylvania National Guard has deployed to more than 30 locations worldwide since September 11, 2001;

Whereas Pennsylvania's Army Aviation Flight Facility at Fort Indiantown Gap is the first and only National Guard facility in the Nation to achieve the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program "STAR Award" for exhibiting exceptional safety management principles and accident-free flying hours, and effectively demonstrating the implementation of these principles during years-long intensive OSHA inspections;

Whereas in 2008, the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's (PaANG) 171st Air Refueling Wing flew more than 5,800 flying hours with more than 1,600 sorties flown, representing an 85 percent mission effectiveness rate;

Whereas the PaANG's 193rd Special Operations Wing flew more than 3,000 hours with more than 1,000 sorties in 2008 and is the only unit in the entire Armed Forces with an airborne psychological operations broadcasting platform;

Whereas the PaANG's 111th Fighter Wing flew more than 675 close-air support missions and provided more than 2,000 hours of on-station time to coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas soldiers and airmen from Pennsylvania's Counterdrug Program supported 575 cases that resulted in the seizure of more than \$27,000,000 in illegal narcotics, money, weapons, property, and vehicles directly related to illegal drug sales in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Pennsylvania National Guard for its meritorious service to Pennsylvania and the Nation;

(2) honors the men and women who serve, or have served, in the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to thank the Pennsylvania National Guard for its continued service.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President. I have sought recognition to recognize the contributions of the Pennsylvania National Guard in service to Pennsylvania and the Nation. Pennsylvania units have taken part in every conflict America has faced since the Revolutionary War, and contributions made by the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard to our Nation's security continue to be nothing short of outstanding. The citizen soldiers and airmen who serve in the Guard have answered the call to serve their Nation both at home and abroad time and time again. I am honored to stand before you to recount some of the Pennsylvania National Guard's recent accomplishments.

With approximately 20,000 soldiers and airman in its ranks, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the largest National Guards in the Nation. It has the largest Army National Guard and the fourth largest Air National Guard. I commend the Adjutant Gen-

eral of Pennsylvania, Major General Jessica Wright, and Deputy Adjutant Generals, Major General Stephen Sischo and Brigadier General Joseph De Paul, for ably leading this force that has armories or airbases in 90 communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Since September 11, 2001, over 17,000 Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and airmen have deployed to over 30 worldwide locations, and the Guard is currently supporting the largest deployment of Pennsylvania Guardsmen since World War II.

I regret that I do not have time to list all of the Pennsylvania National Guard's accomplishments and accolades. I will briefly highlight accomplishments of individual units within the Pennsylvania National Guard that attest to the impressive quality of the whole.

Currently, the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, an element of the 28th Infantry Division, is deployed in Iraq. The unit, which is the only unit in the National Guard to field the Stryker vehicle, traces its lineage to 1747, when Benjamin Franklin organized the "Associated Regiment of Foot", currently 1-11th Infantry, in Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania's Army Aviation Flight Facility at Fort Indiantown Gap is the first and only Army National Guard facility in the Nation to achieve the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program "STAR Award" for exhibiting exceptional safety management principles and accident-free flying hours, and effectively demonstrating the implementation of these principles during years-long intensive inspections.

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing, based in Coraopolis and commanded by Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff III, flew over 5,800 flying hours with more than 1,600 sorties flown in 2008, representing an 85 percent mission effectiveness rate.

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, based in Harrisburg and commanded by Brigadier General Eric G. Weller, flew over 3,000 hours and over 1,000 sorties in 2008 and is the only unit in the entire Armed Forces with an airborne psychological operations broadcasting platform.

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 111th Fighter Wing, based in Willow Grove and commanded by Colonel Paul Comtois, flew over 675 close-air support missions and provided more than 2,000 hours of on-station time to coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The soldiers and airmen from Pennsylvania's Counterdrug Program supported 575 cases that resulted in the seizure of over \$27 million in illegal narcotics, money, weapons, property and vehicles directly related to illegal drug sales in 2008.

The accomplishments I have enumerated are but a few of the many that the

Pennsylvania National Guard can claim to its credit. Whether through deployments overseas, the deployment of 2,500 Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard members to support hurricane disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina, or service within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard have repeatedly answered the call to duty. Their performance has been in keeping with the finest traditions of the military and has reflected great credit upon themselves, the Pennsylvania National Guard, and the United States Military.

I will continue to do all that I can in the United States Senate to ensure that the Pennsylvania National Guard has the necessary equipment, training and facilities to accomplish the missions it is called on to perform both for the Commonwealth and the Nation.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 673. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 673. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 366, line 24, strike "rule." and insert the following: "rule, provided that an attorney general of a State may not enter into a contingency fee agreement for legal or expert witness services relating to a civil action under this section. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'contingency fee agreement' means a contract or other agreement to provide services under which the amount or the payment of the fee for the services is contingent in whole or in part on the outcome of the matter for which the services were obtained."

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 542

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand that S. 542, introduced earlier today by Senator REID, is at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 542) to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress.

Mr. WARNER. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.