

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 83

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used at any time on November 27, 2001, or December 4, 2001, for a National Day of Reconciliation where—

(1) the 2 Houses of Congress shall assemble in the rotunda with the Chaplain of the House of Representatives and the Chaplain of the Senate in attendance; and

(2) during this assembly, the Members of the 2 Houses may gather to humbly seek the blessings of Providence for forgiveness, reconciliation, unity, and charity for all people of the United States, thereby assisting the Nation to realize its potential as—

(A) the champion of hope;

(B) the vindicator of the defenseless; and

(C) the guardian of freedom.

SEC. 2. PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

Physical preparations for the assembly shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING CONTINUING SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE UNITS

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 287) honoring the continuing service and commitment of the members of the National Guard and Reserve units activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I rise in support of House Resolution 287 offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES). House Resolution 287 honors the National Guard and Reserve units that have been called to service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

On September 11 Americans were shocked and saddened to learn of the deadly terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The heroic efforts of those aboard a fourth commercial airliner foiled the terrorist attempts to potentially destroy another target in the Nation's capital.

Shock and outrage were quickly replaced with determination, and the President declared a national emergency; and on September 14, he announced the partial mobilization of nearly 50,000 National Guard and Reservists to assist in national security efforts.

Five days later, units across the country received notice that they were being called to duty. Today, over 42,000 Reservists and members of the National Guard are on call. They represent all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Many have been protecting our Nation's airports. Others have brought their expertise in medical supply intelligence and other important disciplines as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

Over 1.2 million citizen soldiers have committed their lives in defense to our Nation. These dedicated individuals are our neighbors, our friends, and our relatives. In California, teachers, police officers, business men and women and individuals from all walks of life have put on their uniforms to defend this Nation.

Next week, while we are with our families and friends giving thanks for the founding of this great Nation, Armed Forces personnel will be protecting all of these freedoms that we enjoy.

□ 1445

They will be separated from their families and loved ones, some may be patrolling the skies above us, some guarding our Nation's airports and seaports, some may be overseas, but they will all be doing what they do best. They will be defending the principles of this Nation, protecting us all from harm. We owe our Nation's armed forces a debt of gratitude. Let us give thanks for those who volunteer to serve our country in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia for the purpose of explaining the bill.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today with the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) to offer this important resolution honoring the greatest citizen soldiers of the greatest armed forces in the world, our National Guard and Reserve.

On September 11 our Nation suffered a great tragedy. Enemies of freedom made a deliberate attack on our people, our soil, and our way of life. But those enemies were mistaken if they believed that such an attack could turn us away from the principles of liberty and freedom that we hold so dear. Our Nation will survive and we will emerge even stronger for having endured this horror. America's enemies have brought the issue of terrorism to the forefront of the American stage, and they will pay dearly for it.

We know this not only because we have the will and spirit to conduct this

war against terrorism, but also because we have the best-trained, most impressive fighting force this world has seen. In the days following September 11, it was the National Guard and Reserve who were present on our streets and in our skies. They were present in our airports and on our waterways. They were deployed overseas in support of active duty units. This is not the first time we have seen these heroes in action. They are our associates and our neighbors, our friends and relatives. Yet, to many of us, their presence means so much more than it did before.

Just this morning, in fact, the National Guard was sworn in to assist in protecting the U.S. Capitol. We welcome them to our Capitol Hill family and thank them for their steadfast service.

Furthermore, reports are in that America has tracked down and eliminated the number two leader of al Qaeda. We owe this success in part to the efforts of our National Guard and Reserves. Without their aid, our regular active duty members would not have been able to effectively be both the tip of the spear and the shield of America.

We should honor our modern day Minutemen, or as our citizen soldiers stand watch over us, they remind us that since colonial times, long before the phrase "Homeland Security" was used, they were here to preserve liberty on the home front.

We owe the men and women who have left their families and jobs to heed this call a great deal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our National Guard and Reserve. Let every Guardsman and Reservist know that the Members of this body hold them in highest esteem.

I would like to thank the Speaker and the majority leader for bringing this resolution to the floor so promptly. Additionally, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for his strong support of our Guardsmen and Reservists, and I urge my colleagues to follow his lead and to reach out to our National Guard and Reserve units with a helpful and grateful heart.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I also applaud my fellow colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), for bringing forth this resolution with me.

Since September 11, we have seen many heroes in this country. It was Napoleon who said that great soldiers are those that run towards the sounds of the guns and, indeed, we have many that have followed that description in other professions: the firemen, the police, the emergency medical professionals, as well as our fighting men and

women overseas. But we also must remember that our Guardsmen and our Reserves do just that when they sign up for duty to defend our freedoms.

We have over a million National Guard men and women and Reserve units around our country. These are citizen-soldiers, those that work with us, have children in school with us, that we worship with at church. They are people that live side by side with us, but during the weekend and when called up, they go and they work to fight for our freedoms. They do so many, many things and have done so much since September 11. We see them in our airports as we fly, as I do, back and forth, home every weekend, and they give us the comfort that they are there standing on guard and giving us the security that we seek at these times.

In our State in Minnesota, they were called on to do extra duty when we had a recent State workers strike. We had over 30,000 of them called up for active duty doing many things that are vital for our war against terrorism. I had an opportunity to visit our Camp Ripley in Minnesota and be there when our Wilmer Battalion, which has units throughout our district in Litchfield and Hutchinson and Redwood Falls as they practiced their maneuvers, and I could not have been more proud of the professionalism and the commitment that they showed. They really were there for us when we needed them.

As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) mentioned, they are also here helping to protect us in our Nation's Capital. It is so very appropriate that we are here with this resolution today, the day in the week that our President, George W. Bush, named National Employers Support of Guard and Reserve Week for 2001. As he said, Americans understand and appreciate the importance of our National Guard and Reserve units, but many do not know the contributions their employers make in supporting these civilian soldiers. It is appropriate that we also thank those employers that have made this Guard duty possible.

So I am honored to be here to bring this resolution together, along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES). I encourage all of the Members to support it, and I encourage all of our citizens, the next time they see a Guardsman, or someone in the Reserves, or someone that employs them, please tell them, "Thank you from a grateful Nation."

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 287

Whereas citizen-soldiers have served the United States with honor and distinction since colonial times;

Whereas the more than 1,200,000 citizen-soldiers who comprise the National Guard and Reserve components of the Armed Forces nationwide commit significant time and effort to executing their important role in the Armed Forces;

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas thousands of innocent people from more than 80 countries were killed or injured as a result of these attacks;

Whereas on September 14, 2001, units of the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard of the United States, and Air National Guard of the United States were authorized to be activated in support of operations in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas 336 of such units from 49 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have been activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas on October 29, 2001, 32,686 members of such units were on active duty, including 12,391 members of the Army Reserve and Army National Guard, 4,650 members of the Naval Reserve, 373 members of the Marine Corps Reserve, 2,529 members of the Coast Guard Reserve, and 12,743 members of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard;

Whereas these activations represent the largest mobilization of members of the National Guard and Reserve since Operation Desert Storm in 1991;

Whereas members of the National Guard and Reserve are serving the Nation in almost every conceivable capacity, including providing airport security, medical support, and other logistical support for both civilian and military operations;

Whereas the members of these units have been ordered to active duty for a period of 365 days and are not expected to return home until October 2002 at the earliest;

Whereas these National Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers have selflessly performed their duties during the weeks since the terrorist attacks, sacrificing time at their civilian jobs and with their families during the period of their active duty; and

Whereas these National Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers serve a critical role as part of the mission of the Armed Forces to protect the freedom of United States citizens and the American ideals of justice, liberty, and freedom, both at home and abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the continuing service and commitment of the members of the National Guard and Reserve units activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom;

(2) honors the sacrifices made by the families and employers of the members of those units during their time away from home;

(3) recognizes the critical importance of the National Guard and Reserve to the security of the United States; and

(4) supports providing the necessary resources to ensure the continued readiness of the National Guard and Reserve.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY
MR. FORBES

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the Preamble offered by Mr. FORBES.

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas citizen-soldiers have served the United States with honor and distinction since colonial times;

Whereas the more than 1,200,000 citizen-soldiers who comprise the National Guard and Reserve components of the Armed Forces nationwide commit significant time and effort to executing their important role in the Armed Forces;

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas thousands of innocent people from more than 80 countries were killed or injured as a result of these attacks;

Whereas on September 14, 2001, units of the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard of the United States, and Air National Guard of the United States were authorized to be activated in support of operations in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas more than 42,000 members of National Guard and Reserve units from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have been ordered to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas these activations represent the largest mobilization of members of the National Guard and Reserve since Operation Desert Storm in 1991;

Whereas members of the National Guard and Reserve are serving the Nation in almost every conceivable capacity, including providing airport security, medical support, and other logistical support for both civilian and military operations;

Whereas the members of these units have been ordered to active duty for a period of 365 days and are not expected to return home until October 2002 at the earliest;

Whereas these National Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers have selflessly performed their duties during the weeks since the terrorist attacks, sacrificing time at their civilian jobs and with their families during the period of their active duty; and

Whereas these National Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers serve a critical role as part of the mission of the Armed Forces to protect the freedom of United States citizens and the American ideals of justice, liberty, and freedom, both at home and abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. FORBES (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the preamble be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 287.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM AS PART OF A UNITED EFFORT TO BE KNOWN AS OPERATION ENDURING SUPPORT

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 284) encouraging the people of the United States to support the Armed Forces and civilian personnel who are engaged in the war on terrorism as part of a united effort to be known as Operation Enduring Support, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, under my reservation, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support my distinguished colleague in encouraging all Americans to support the men and women who serve our Armed Forces in both uniform and civilian garb.

On September 11, our Nation suffered a great tragedy. Now, more than ever, we need to support our service personnel, the true power behind America's military might. We must give our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines modern weaponry with which to keep American interests secure. We must support shipbuilding, aircraft procurement and research and development. We must support the Armed Forces, not just in Operation Enduring Freedom, but in everything they do.

Equally important, we must give them our moral support. They are risking their lives and sacrificing their spirits to protect our freedom. We should all wear the proverbial yellow ribbons signifying our support of these brave heroes every day with pride.

With our support, America's Armed Forces will be able to respond to aggression any time and all the time. I urge my fellow Members to support this resolution.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I rise to support House Resolution 284.

This resolution encourages Americans to support the Armed Forces and civilian personnel who are engaged in the war on terrorism as a part of a united effort to be known as Operation Enduring Freedom.

There are over 2.6 million active duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel. Since September 14, nearly 42,000 Reservists and National Guard have been called to active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. In addition, thousands of civilians, including those from the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of State, the FBI and CIA, just to name a few, have dedicated themselves to protecting our national security interests. Air Force pilots are patrolling our skies. Coast Guard ships are patrolling our shores, and members of the National Guard are securing our airports.

State Department employees across the world are working with our allies, and the FBI and CIA are working to track down and prosecute those associated with the terrorist attacks against our United States. FDA employees are working with health providers to increase education and awareness of biological and chemical threats to our citizens, and the list goes on and on.

Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the American people have been asking, what can they do? How can they help? The bill before us encourages the American people to support the Armed Forces and the civilians participating in the war on terrorism by contributing assistance to voluntary and to charitable organizations. It also provides support and comfort to the family members of our men and women in uniform who are now, or will be, overseas during this time.

The attacks of September 11 did not rip apart the multicolored fabric of the United States. Instead, they have made us closer, stronger, and united in our determination to stand against aggression and protect the democratic principles and the freedoms that we enjoy in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) for his remarks.

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Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding to me, and my good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), for providing me this time to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and also to the American people Operation Enduring Support.

First, it establishes the sense of Congress that September 11 from this day forward will be known as the American Unity Day, establishing once and for all that that was the day that these evildoers of the world decided to take an attack on the United States, and

when they did, they attacked not just the United States but, individually, all of the people of the United States.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) has correctly pointed out that this calls upon all charitable organizations, all military organizations, like the VFW and like the American Legion, and all others who would take the opportunity to celebrate the return of our warriors who are now engaged in that front line battle.

But it goes further than that, Mr. Speaker. This also engages all of the American people. It was not that many years ago, probably too many that I would care to lay claim to, but I remember coming home with my uniform in 1968. It was not a happy time to be a person in uniform at that time, Mr. Speaker.

In 1968, leaving Fort Knox, Kentucky, in order to get the best price on an airline, I had to be in full dress uniform.

As I left the gates of Fort Knox, Kentucky and ventured through the town of Louisville, Kentucky, and got on that airplane and landed first in Washington, D.C., and then in Baltimore, then back to Washington, D.C., having completed my business, and then took a connecting airline from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois, Denver, Colorado, and finally, Boise, Idaho, I did not feel very safe.

In fact, I wondered to myself aloud about the active time that I spent wearing that uniform, because it was not a happy time for people in uniform in 1968, during the Vietnam conflict.

This should never happen again to anyone who is returning after the defense, after defending our country. So this calls upon all the people of the United States, every citizen, every State, every community, to celebrate the return of these warriors; if nothing else, to let these evildoers know around the world that they are not just fighting those folks on the front line; that that is not the people alone that they have to worry about, they have to worry about every citizen in this United States, because we are going to let them know that we are a whole people, and we are a united people.

There is no reflection on the past into the sixties and early seventies. In this, we are of one voice; in this, we are of one mind and one spirit, and that is the spirit of unity and the spirit of enduring support.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 284

Whereas in response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the United States is engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom, which will require