

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 1047, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR SELFLESS SERVICE DURING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, March 4, 2003, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) 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, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 27 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 27

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 per-

formed 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 thousands 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

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

(1) commends, and expresses the gratitude of the Nation to, all members of the United States Armed Forces (whether on active duty, in the National Guard, or in the Reserves) who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism;

(2) commends, and expresses the gratitude of the Nation to, the employers who in the spirit of patriotism maintain the job security of their mobilized National Guard and Reserve employees;

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

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

(5) reaffirms that it stands united with the President in the ongoing effort to defeat global terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, March 4, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the joint resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, since the start of the global war on terrorism, a saga has unfolded marked by the dedication, selfless service, and commitment of the members of the Armed Forces and their families. Now, on the eve of a potential war with Iraq, the Nation is about to ask our Armed Forces and their families for additional sacrifices.

For these reasons, my great colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), and I thought it was only fitting that we offer this joint resolution to send a message to our Armed Forces of our support and appreciation for their magnificent efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Armed Forces, a total force of active National Guard and Reserve volunteers, have conducted more than 17 months of courageous and successful operations against terrorism, not only in Afghanistan, but also worldwide. Beyond that, they have secured the U.S. homeland by performing various missions, including patrolling the Nation's airports, protecting the public at special events, and flying combat air patrols in the Nation's skies.

Today, more than 200,000 active duty personnel are already deployed to the Persian Gulf, and thousands of Reservists and National Guard members are on alert for mobilization or are deploying for a possible war with Iraq.

All these missions are in addition to other regular military requirements and have significantly increased the pace of operations and the stress on our forces. There have been no permanent increases in the size of the Armed Forces to meet these new requirements. Instead, our military forces are being required to work longer, harder, and smarter.

One enduring mark of the sacrifices being made in this war on terrorism by our men and women in uniform is that 67 American servicemembers have died defending the Nation, and 212 have been wounded or injured.

Untold sacrifices are being asked of the nearly 225,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve who have been mobilized for active duty since the start of the global war on terrorism. More than 174,000 of them remain on active duty, with thousands facing a second year of active duty away from their families and civilian employment.

America is able to make a substantial commitment of its citizen soldiers to this war because many of the Nation's employers, in the spirit of patriotism, are maintaining job security for those mobilized personnel and their families. Whether the members of the Armed Forces are active, Guard, or Reserve, their ability to perform their missions requires the continuing support and sacrifice of their families.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation is engaged in a global conflict that presents many