Public Law 107–152
107th Congress

Joint Resolution

Congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on its bicentennial anniversary, and commending its outstanding contributions to the Nation.

Mar. 14, 2002
[S.J. Res. 32]

Whereas establishing a military academy to teach the technical arts of war was a desire of many of our founding fathers, particularly George Washington;

Whereas Congress passed legislation on March 16, 1802, to establish such a military academy to be located at West Point, New York, a site that Washington called the key to the continent because of its strategic importance during the Revolution;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson signed the legislation establishing the United States Military Academy at West Point, an institution dedicated to promoting scientific education to benefit the Nation and to attracting a diverse array of young citizens to the Nation's military leadership;

Whereas Sylvanus Thayer, who served as Superintendent of the Academy from 1817 to 1833, established the foundation of the Academy's strong academic program, strict adherence to discipline, and emphasis on moral and ethical conduct;

Whereas under Douglas MacArthur's leadership as Superintendent from 1919 to 1922, the Academy was modernized to prepare its graduates for the challenges of the 20th century;

Whereas the Academy, the first school in America to teach engineering, produced graduates who were responsible for the construction of the Nation's first railroad lines and many of its early harbor improvements, bridges, roads, and canals;

Whereas Academy graduates introduced engineering education to numerous colleges and universities, and carried out such monumental engineering projects as the construction of the Panama Canal project;

Whereas Academy graduates have also distinguished themselves in the leadership of such innovative scientific research and development projects as the development of atomic bombs in the Manhattan Project during World War II;

Whereas Academy graduates have served with character and distinction in all of America's wars and military actions since the War of 1812;

Whereas 74 Academy graduates have earned the Nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor;

Whereas 2 Academy graduates, Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower, served both as distinguished general officers and as the President of the United States, and many other graduates have served in all levels of government;

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Whereas dozens of Academy graduates have been astronauts, including the Academy graduate who is the first American to walk in space and 2 Academy graduates who walked on the moon;

Whereas hundreds of Academy graduates have utilized their talents in the private sector, to provide managerial and technical expertise that is responsible, in part, for nurturing and sustaining a system of enterprise that is admired around the world;

Whereas the Academy has provided an opportunity for men and women of all races, religions, and cultures to receive a college education and to begin a life of service to the Army and the Nation; and

Whereas the motto of the Academy, "Duty, Honor, Country", exemplifies the spirit of this Republic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress congratulates the United States Military Academy on its bicentennial anniversary, recognizes it as an outstanding leadership development institution that upholds and promotes the highest virtues of American society, and commends all those who have led and taught at the Academy for inculcating its 58,000 graduates with moral, ethical, and intellectual values and skills that are the foundations for the dedicated service so honorably given by those graduates to the Army, the Nation, and friends of freedom and liberty around the world for 200 years.

Approved March 14, 2002.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 32:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 148 (2002):
Feb. 25, considered and passed Senate.
Mar. 6, considered and passed House.