

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 227

Expressing the sense of the Senate in appreciation of the National Committee
for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate in appreciation of the
National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard
and Reserve.

Whereas the National Committee for Employer Support of
the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) was established by
Presidential proclamation issued in 1972;

Whereas national defense planners at that time, anticipating
the end of the draft under the Military Selective Service
Act, foresaw the potential that the Nation's reserve com-
ponent forces would be used increasingly to meet national
security requirements, that the operations of members'
civilian employers would be disrupted by that develop-
ment, that employers accustomed to National Guard and
Reserve service being an alternative to compulsory active

duty service would question the necessity for volunteer participation in the Nation's community-based defense forces, and that the employers' support for Guard and Reserve service would erode;

Whereas, to counteract those potential problems, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was chartered to develop public understanding of the National Guard and Reserve forces and to enlist the support of employers of members of the reserve components in the development of personnel policies and practices that encourage employee participation in National Guard and Reserve programs;

Whereas, for over 25 years, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has informed employers of the ever-increasing importance of the National Guard and Reserve, explaining to employers the necessity for, and the role of, these forces in national defense;

Whereas there are over 4,200 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) volunteers from among the business, civic, and community leaders in committees in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam;

Whereas the ESGR volunteers carry out a variety of programs and services to inform communities and employers about the vital role of the National Guard and Reserve;

Whereas ESGR volunteers honor with suitable recognition the many employers who actively support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve;

Whereas ESGR volunteers educate employers of members in the National Guard and Reserve and those employees

about the rights and obligations regarding military leave that were established or reaffirmed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1974;

Whereas, to underscore the important role of the National Guard and Reserve in our national defense, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve developed the Statement of Support program under which employers of members of the reserve components are invited to declare their support for their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve;

Whereas the first statement of support under the program was signed by the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of General Motors in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on December 13, 1972;

Whereas the next day, President Richard Nixon signed a statement of support covering all Federal civilian employees and, since then, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton have all made the same commitment;

Whereas thousands of other employers nationwide have likewise signed statements of support for service of their employees in the reserve components;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of America's total military might is composed of National Guard and Reserve component members;

Whereas despite the ending of the Cold War in 1989, the military commitments of the United States have not diminished;

Whereas the Nation's reserve components are being called upon more than ever before to contribute to the protec-

tion of our national security interests and are critical contributors to that mission;

Whereas, during the Persian Gulf War in 1990 and 1991, more than 260,000 Reserves were called to active duty to support military operations in the Persian Gulf region;

Whereas National Guard and Reserve members contribute over 13,000,000 duty days yearly in support of military operations and exercises worldwide, which is a rate of duty that is 13 times greater than the rate of duty experienced during the Cold War; and

Whereas employers, public officials, military leaders, and military members rely on the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to promote public and private understanding of the National Guard and Reserve in order to obtain the employer and community support that is necessary to ensure the availability and readiness of reserve component forces: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that the Na-
3 tional Committee for Employer Support of the
4 Guard and Reserve makes vital contributions to ena-
5 bling the National Guard and Reserve to support the
6 national security strategy while, at the same time,
7 acting on behalf of the Nation's employers to ensure
8 that their interests are represented with equity and
9 fairness; and

10 (2) the Senate congratulates the National Com-
11 mittee for Employer Support of the Guard and Re-

1 serve, its staff, and volunteers for their commitment
2 to our national defense, for their contribution of
3 time and talent, and for maintaining the much need-
4 ed support of employers and communities for the
5 National Guard and Reserve.

