

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5016

To express the appreciation of Congress for the outstanding contribution that all military chaplains make to the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2002

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To express the appreciation of Congress for the outstanding contribution that all military chaplains make to the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. COMMENDATION OF MILITARY CHAPLAINS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Military chaplains have served with those
6 who fought for the cause of freedom since the found-
7 ing of the Nation.

8 (2) Military chaplains and religious support
9 personnel of the Armed Forces have served with dis-

1 tinction as uniformed members of the Armed Forces
2 in support of the Nation's defense missions during
3 every conflict in the history of the United States.

4 (3) 400 United States military chaplains have
5 died in combat, some as a result of direct fire while
6 ministering to fallen Americans, while others made
7 the ultimate sacrifice as a prisoner of war.

8 (4) Military chaplains currently serve in hu-
9 manitarian operations, rotational deployments, and
10 in the war on terrorism.

11 (5) Religious organizations make up the very
12 fabric of religious diversity and represent unparal-
13 leled levels of freedom of conscience, speech, and
14 worship that set the United States apart from any
15 other nation on Earth.

16 (6) Religious organizations have richly blessed
17 the uniformed services by sending clergy to comfort
18 and encourage all persons of faith in the Armed
19 Forces.

20 (7) During the sinking of the USS Dorchester
21 in February 1943 during World War II, four chap-
22 lains (Reverend Fox, Reverend Poling, Father
23 Washington, and Rabbi Goode) gave their lives so
24 that others might live.

1 (8) All military chaplains aid and assist mem-
2 bers of the Armed Forces and their family members
3 with the challenging issues of today's world.

4 (9) The current war against terrorism has
5 brought to the shores of the United States new
6 threats and concerns that strike at the beliefs and
7 emotions of Americans.

8 (10) Military chaplains must, as never before,
9 deal with the spiritual well-being of the members of
10 the Armed Forces and their families.

11 (b) COMMENDATION.—Congress, on behalf of the Na-
12 tion, expresses its appreciation for the outstanding con-
13 tribution that all military chaplains make to the members
14 of the Armed Forces and their families.

15 (c) PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.—The President
16 is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling
17 on the people of the United States to recognize the distin-
18 guished service of the Nation's military chaplains.

○