

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 387

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Rest and Recuperation Leave program for members of the Armed Forces serving in combat zones in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom should cover all travel and transportation costs necessary to return members of the Armed Forces granted such leave to their homes located throughout the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2003

Mr. MOORE (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FROST, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BAKER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. FORD, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OSE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Rest and Recuperation Leave program for members of the Armed Forces serving in combat zones in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom should cover all travel and transportation costs nec-

essary to return members of the Armed Forces granted such leave to their homes located throughout the United States.

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces have been deployed in Afghanistan since 2002, and currently over 130,000 United States troops are deployed in Iraq with the likelihood of another 10,000–15,000 troops being sent overseas in the next few months;

Whereas the current average length of stay for United States military personnel in Iraq is 12 months and the total extended time away from home for these troops is uncertain;

Whereas serving in wartime Iraq and lengthy absences from home can cause or exacerbate many personal conflicts for military personnel deployed there, as well as family and marital stresses;

Whereas the Rest and Recuperation Program was created to provide relief and boost morale for military personnel serving on 12-month tours in Iraq and neighboring countries, by reuniting, albeit briefly, wives and husbands, parents and children, and friends and loved ones;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces presently granted leave under the program are responsible for any travel to and from the approved port of debarkation in the United States, which leaves many of the members stranded or forced to foot the bill for connecting flights and transportation to their homes; and

Whereas the expected cost to the United States for each member granted leave under the program is approximately \$1,300 per member: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2   resentatives that the Rest and Recuperation Leave pro-  
3   gram for members of the Armed Forces serving in combat  
4   zones in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation  
5   Enduring Freedom should cover all travel and transpor-  
6   tation costs necessary to return members of the Armed  
7   Forces granted such leave to their homes located through-  
8   out the United States.

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