

A resolution (S. Res. 355) honoring the service of the National Guard and requesting consultation by the Department of Defense with Congress and the chief executive officers of the States prior to offering proposals to change the National Guard force structure.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to speak on S. Res. 355 regarding the budget for the National Guard, a resolution which Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I have cosponsored.

Last week, a total of 75 Senators, including myself, signed a letter to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld opposing the plan that proposes changes to the standing force structure of the National Guard. This plan has raised serious concerns.

Senator FRIST, the majority leader, said last week on a national morning news program that he would oppose cuts to the National Guard.

Nebraska National Guard General Roger Lempke, president of the Adjunct Generals Association, has aggressively questioned the proposed changes to the Guard. General Lempke and I share another concern about the Guard; that is, the increasing problem it has with equipment shortages as a result of the war, damage, total destruction, and the fact that much of the equipment is most likely going to be left in Iraq.

Earlier this year, General Lempke briefed me on equipment shortages faced by the Nebraska National Guard. I learned firsthand that the Guard in Nebraska is facing shortages of \$35 million in equipment, from trucks to body armor, from humvees to night-vision goggles.

This prompted me, along with my colleague, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, to introduce a resolution on the National Guard that essentially does two things: First, it asks the Pentagon to fully fund the Guard to restore lost and destroyed equipment; second, it seeks consultation with Congress and the Nation's Governors on any potential force structure changes. In a briefing today before the Senate Committee on Armed Services, General Schoomaker assured members he has already begun this process of talking to the Nation's Governors and seeking more consultation with affected Members of the Congress.

This resolution was cleared by the Committee on Armed Services and sent to the Senate last week. It has 54 cosponsors, including myself. It is bipartisan. It is direct. I urge my colleagues and the majority leader to ensure that this resolution be passed today. We cannot wait any longer. We must assure the Department of Defense, that Congress has spoken, and that we will be heard on this issue.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements re-

lating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 355) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 355

Whereas the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the United States, representing all 50 States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, have played an indispensable role in the defense of our country;

Whereas during one phase of the Global War on Terrorism, Army National Guard soldiers comprised nearly half of the United States combat forces in Iraq;

Whereas National Guard personnel are currently deployed in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, and more than 40 other countries around the world;

Whereas 90 percent of the troops on the ground in Louisiana and Mississippi responding to Hurricane Katrina were members of the National Guard;

Whereas while performing these critical missions, the National Guard continues to experience significant equipment shortages, especially vehicle and radio shortages;

Whereas members of the National Guard are not "weekend warriors", but citizen-soldiers and airmen who serve full-time when their country needs them to do so;

Whereas the National Guard is a resource shared by the chief executive officers of the States and the President;

Whereas the National Guard is America's militia;

Whereas deployment to fight terrorism on two fronts overseas, while protecting our homeland, has stretched the National Guard thin;

Whereas the future of the National Guard could be determined by the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) currently underway;

Whereas the Army and Air Force could recommend changes in the force structure of the National Guard;

Whereas reductions in force structure could impact numerous Army National Guard armories and Air National Guard wings;

Whereas reductions in force structure combined with the lack of adequate equipment for the National Guard threaten its capacity to discharge its missions and its ability to respond in emergencies;

Whereas homeland defense is the most important mission of the Department of Defense; and

Whereas the National Guard is the force best suited to defend the homeland and therefore the element from which resources should not be cut: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the vital Federal and State missions of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States, including support of ongoing missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and homeland defense and disaster assistance and relief efforts;

(2) recommends that the Department of Defense propose fully funding the equipment needs of the National Guard;

(3) believes that the Department of Defense should, as soon as possible, consult with the chief executive officers of the States, as well as Congress, on any proposed changes to the National Guard force structure;

(4) requests that any plan of the Department of Defense regarding the National

Guard force structure take into account the role of the National Guard role in homeland defense and other State missions as defined by the chief executive officers of the States;

(5) requests that the Department of Defense prepare budget projections that detail cost savings from any changes in National Guard force structure, as well as projected costs in the event large personnel increases are necessary to respond to a national emergency; and

(6) requests that the Department of Defense assure Congress and the chief executive officers of the States that potential changes in the National Guard force structure will not impact the safety and security of the United States people.

DAY OF HEARTS, CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate proceeded to S. Con. Res. 69.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 69) supporting the goals and ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 69) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 69

Whereas congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart that are present at birth;

Whereas such defects range in severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves of the heart;

Whereas more than one million Americans have some form of a congenital heart defect and such defect is the number one cause of death in infants;

Whereas out of 1000 births, eight babies will have some form of a congenital heart disorder, and approximately 35,000 babies are born with such defects each year;

Whereas twice as many children die each year from congenital heart disease compared with childhood cancers, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than such funding for congenital heart disease;

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the Nation's leading killer in both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups;

Whereas the United States has a severe shortage of cardiac centers that are fully equipped to provide care for adults living with complex heart defects;

Whereas almost one million Americans die of cardiovascular disease each year, resulting in up to 42 percent of all deaths in the United States;

Whereas the presence of a serious congenital heart defect often results in an enormous emotional and financial strain on young families who are already in a vulnerable stage of their lives;

Whereas severe congenital heart disease requires that families dedicate extensive financial resources for assistance and care both within and outside of a hospital environment;

Whereas congenital heart defects exceed more than \$2.2 million a year for inpatient surgery alone; and

Whereas February 14, 2006, would be an appropriate day to recognize A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day to—

(1) increase awareness about congenital heart defects;

(2) encourage research with respect to the disease; and

(3) support the millions of Americans who are affected by this disease.

CONGRATULATING THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 367 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 367) congratulating the Pittsburgh Steelers for their victory in Super Bowl XL.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to be here today to speak on behalf of a great organization and a great group of men who accomplished the heights of their profession. The Pittsburgh Steelers were victorious in Super Bowl XL on Sunday. As I speak right now, there is a parade going through downtown Pittsburgh of our warriors, our champions who have brought back the Super Bowl trophy, the Lombardi trophy, to Pittsburgh for the fifth time, which ties a record with the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys, having won five Super Bowls.

During the 1970s, we won four and got comfortable with the fact that Pittsburgh was a city of champions, winning both football titles and two World Series titles in 1972 and 1979; and in 1979 we won both the Super Bowl and the World Series. It has been a long time—26 years—since we were able to get, as the saying goes in Pittsburgh, “one for the thumb.” We didn’t yet have the one for the thumb. But the time for the one for the thumb has come. We have, in fact, gotten over the hump, and we have a lot more to look forward to, in my view, in the years to come with this great squad.

I congratulate, obviously, the team. I also congratulate some other folks who

I think deserve particular recognition—and, by the way, Senator SPECTER and I have put forth a congratulatory resolution, which we brought down to the floor and I am sure will be cleared and we will be able to get that passed today.

I congratulate the Rooney family. This is a family enterprise that has been, since 1933, running the Steelers. I don’t know of any other team in the NFL that has had the kind of stable ownership and closeness with the community that the Rooney ownership has brought over the past 73 years. They are a great Pittsburgh family. Art Rooney, who bought the team back in 1933, was one of the founders of the NFL. For years and years and years, he was one of the great men of football but never won a championship for over 40 years being in the league, and then they had a great run in the 1970s.

After his passing, Dan, his son, took it over, and has been a tremendous pillar of the Pittsburgh community. This is a man who is as humble as any man I have ever met. In contrast with some of the high-flying owners of the NFL, this is a man who still flies around in a little single-engine plane. They have a training camp well out of town, so instead of having to drive from his home, he takes this little plane and flies out to the airport near St. Vincent College. He still remembers his roots and does so much for the community. One of the things he does most for the community is he keeps the beloved Steelers a local community team, a team that is good to its players and good to the community and puts the community first. That is one of the reasons the Steelers are so beloved in Pittsburgh—because they are so much a fabric in the city because they participate in community organizations, and their players have great relationships throughout the Pittsburgh area and make a difference in the community. That is really what professional sports should be more about.

We have true role models in people like Jerome Bettis who have added so much to the texture of Pittsburgh. Over the years, we have had many great players in and out, and because of the leadership of the Rooney family and the stability of the coaching ranks, from Chuck Knoll to Bill Cowher, we have seen that stability, that bond with the city that has been transferred to the players. They feel that special relationship and obligation to be role models in the community. Overwhelmingly, they have lived up to that.

So it is a very proud moment, not only because they won a football game—in fact, they won four improbable games against worthy opponents—they were a team that barely made the playoffs, but they went through and not only got to a championship game and won the AFC championship, they then won the Super Bowl. They are truly a remarkable team, inspired by this great family, the Rooney family, and a great coach, Bill Cowher, who

has been, again, another important piece of the Pittsburgh family now for better than a dozen years. He continues to show that a hometown boy can come back, somebody who wasn’t a star in the league but a solid guy from Pittsburgh who understands the importance of the Steelers to the community and lives by that ethic and the code the Rooneys have established very well and makes Pittsburgh a better place as a result.

It is great to see Coach Cowher get a Super Bowl, it is great to see the team back on top, and it is great to see Pittsburgh, a town that has gone through a lot in the steel industry in the 1970s—they have seen pretty dark times in the 1980s in particular as a community. We have been going through a renaissance in Pittsburgh in the last 10, 12 years, a tremendous transformation of that city. It is nice to see that the Steelers put a punctuation mark which, hopefully, draws some attention and makes us feel better about ourselves because not only have we made the transformation, but we have a winning team and a good, positive attitude about how we go forward.

So I am proud to be a Pittsburgher, and I am proud particularly to be a Pittsburgh Steeler fan today. I congratulate the entire organization and all of the people in Pittsburgh for the tremendous support you continue to give the Steelers and the great attitude you bring to our fair city.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I rise to compliment the Pittsburgh Steelers on a phenomenal season and a great Super Bowl victory. I regret I could not go to Detroit to see the game. But a session had been scheduled many weeks ago to bring in Attorney General Gonzales on the electronic surveillance issue at 9:30 yesterday morning. I checked it out, and the earliest I could have gotten back to Washington would have been the middle of the night. I thought it more sensible to attend to those important duties for the hearing with the Attorney General and to watch the game on television.

I was very heartened to see that game, to see that 75-yard run, the longest in Super Bowl history, to see that phenomenal catch, practically a “hail Mary,” on the 3-yard line, to see the young quarterback Ben Roethlisberger carry it over on the replay and the great dispute about whether there was a touchdown, and it was a touchdown. The earlier touchdown was nullified when a Seattle receiver had pushed off and been called with an infraction. And then when the Steelers were driving at 14 to 3 toward a putaway touchdown, the intercepted pass and long runback, and the Seahawks came within 14 to 10. Then the Seahawks mounted a drive and were closing in on a touchdown which would have put them ahead 17 to 14, and then came the Steelers’ interception. So, it was phenomenal and thrilling game. To have the Steelers, from a wild-card position, go on the