

conducted the largest air assault in history.

Today, the 101st continues their history of exemplary combat service to our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of men and women proudly wear the patch of the Screaming Eagle on their right shoulder as they deploy to defend the liberties that we enjoy here in the United States. Today, we recognize the Screaming Eagles and the hundreds of thousands of their brethren in uniform who volunteer to defend our Nation each and every day.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of all those who have served and are serving in the 101st Airborne Division known as the Screaming Eagles.

For more than 65 years, since its formation in 1942, the division has established a record of bravery, commitment, military prowess and excellence that marks it as one of the great military units in American history.

When activated, the division's first commander told his men that, while the division had no history, it had a "rendezvous with destiny." And through five wars, the soldiers of that division have never failed that vision.

In World War II, from Normandy to Holland to Bastogne, and Hitler's Eagle's Nest, the division fought with great distinction. More than 2,000 of its members died defending freedom. Deployed to Vietnam for 7 years, the division never failed to accomplish any mission.

Though few of its battles became household names, the division's 4,000 deaths and 17 Medals of Honor are evidence of the unhesitating courage and sacrifice the division has made in Southeast Asia.

Today, tens of thousands of the 101st soldiers have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, helping to secure liberty for those nations, denying a safe haven to terrorists, and helping to protect America's interests.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is entirely fitting that we honor the 101st Airborne Division as one of the great American military units. More importantly, we must recognize and honor the tremendous debt that we owe to all who have served so well in this storied and historic division.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. WHITFIELD, for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may con-

sume to my friend and colleague from Kentucky, Mr. ED WHITFIELD.

Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky. I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) as well as Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member HUNTER for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

As has been said, Fort Campbell, Kentucky is the home of the 101st Airborne Division known as the Screaming Eagles, which is the only air assault division in the world. It has been my distinct privilege and pleasure to represent the First Congressional District of Kentucky, which is the home of this great unit.

I would also like to say that, while this resolution focuses explicitly on the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell is also the home of the 160th Special Aviation Regiment, the Fifth Special Forces Group, the 86th Combat Support Hospital, and we have many young men and women also serving at the Blanchfield Army Hospital as well as the Garrison Command at Fort Campbell.

I was delighted that the gentleman from Connecticut and the gentleman from Alabama talked briefly about the history of this great 101st Airborne Division. I might say that, throughout its history, 19 individuals of that unit have received the highest declaration offered by the U.S. Government, which is the Medal of Honor.

Since Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom began, thousands of members of the 101st Airborne Division have been deployed no less than three times, performing dangerous counter-insurgency operations and working to secure liberty in nations that once served as safe havens for terrorists.

I might also say that we pay special tribute to the nearly 200 members of the 101st Division who have lost their lives fighting the global war on terrorism, and throughout its proud history over 6,000 have lost their lives.

Despite the dangers and difficulties faced by these soldiers and their loved ones, I might say that 65 percent reenlist and request to stay with the 101st Airborne Division, which certainly demonstrates the loyalty to the proud history and tradition of this unit.

I'd like to thank all of the cosponsors of this resolution. The brave soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division have never hesitated to answer this Nation's call to duty, and it is my great privilege to honor them with this resolution.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, again, I just want to salute Mr. WHITFIELD's and Mr. ROGERS' fine comments. They've said it all.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1080, a resolution honoring the extraordinary service and sac-

rifice of the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army and their families. I am proud to represent in this chamber a portion of Fort Campbell, where the Screaming Eagles are based.

This resolution is especially timely as soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division are currently deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. In April, Major General Jeffrey Schloesser, who commands the Screaming Eagles, took over as the senior U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Under General Schloesser, the 101st Airborne Division took over command of Regional Command East, an area comprised of 14 provinces in eastern Afghanistan. At the same time, three Brigade Combat Teams from the 101st Airborne Division are serving in Iraq. Many of the soldiers have been deployed multiple times in Afghanistan and Iraq, some of those deployments under the command of General David Petraeus, now the Commander of U.S. Central Command.

One need only look at the history of the Screaming Eagles to understand the legacy of the 101st Airborne Division. Originally activated during World War I, the Screaming Eagles would go on to serve in World War II, Vietnam, and Desert Storm, along with their most recent deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

During World War II, the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division would have the distinction of being the first Americans to land in France as part of the D-Day invasion. Nearly 60 years later, the Screaming Eagles became the first conventional unit to deploy in the Global War on Terror; participated in Operation Anaconda, a tough early battle in Afghanistan; and help lead the invasion into Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for joining us today to honor the 101st Airborne Division, the men and women who have earned their place in history. They and their families will be in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to serve with distinction.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1080, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF CONGRESS TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 295) expressing the deepest appreciation of Congress to the families of members of the United States Armed Forces.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 295

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Americans are demonstrating their devotion to the United States and freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas there are a multitude of family members, including mothers, fathers, siblings, spouses, and children, supporting each member of the Armed Forces;

Whereas, even in peacetime, the family of a member of the Armed Forces makes concessions given the inherent dangers of military service and the frequent relocations resulting in disruption of everyday routine;

Whereas, during wartime, family members endure increased sacrifices, forgo time with their loved one, and face increased worry and uncertainty when their loved one serves extended tours overseas or engages in enhanced training activities;

Whereas an increasing number of family members have taken on volunteer responsibilities in organizations associated with the Armed Forces;

Whereas the family of a member of the Armed Forces wounded in action willingly accepts the additional role of caregiver, even when it requires postponement of personal goals;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces serve as a pillar of strength and encouragement for those serving the interests of the United States at home and abroad; and

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces play a critical role in providing emotional support and readjustment assistance as members transition from military life to civilian life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress expresses its deepest appreciation to the families, both immediate and extended, of members of the United States Armed Forces for the unwavering support, both physical and emotional, that family members give their loved ones while they answer the call to serve their country and keep the United States safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Current Resolution 295, which expresses the deep appreciation of Congress to the families of members of the United States Armed Services.

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Over 2 million American men and women are serving in the Armed Forces today. These military men and women have parents, spouses, and children who are being asked to sacrifice their time with their loved one. Given

the high operational tempo, these families have faced continued and sustained separation from their servicemember, many of whom have been deployed more than one time.

Living without the support of a beloved servicemember can be a daily struggle, and especially so for young children. Even so, our military families rise to the challenge with incredible strength and perseverance. These families are proud to know that the sacrifices that they and their loved one makes are to serve the country they love.

When a member returns home, it is our military families who are there for warriors. They provide our first line of defense to ensure that warriors who are wounded or need assistance receive the help that they have earned and deserve. Families are often the first to identify the needs of their loved one and to help ensure that those needs are met. Many families have made tremendous sacrifices to support their wounded warrior, often giving up their own personal goals to ensure that our wounded warriors are well cared for.

Military families are also unsurpassed in their devotion to their military communities. We depend on military family members who volunteer to support units and other families. As the demand has only increased over time with repeated deployments, the responsibilities that these family members have undertaken has also increased tenfold. These are Americans who answer the call in their hearts to serve the men and women who protect our homeland. Their strength, compassion, and unselfish sacrifice truly epitomize all that is good about the American spirit.

House Concurrent Resolution 295 is our way in the Congress of expressing our sincerest appreciation to our military families for the unwavering support that they give to the men and women who serve to keep the United States safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this very important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 295, which expresses the deepest appreciation of Congress to the families of members of the United States Armed Forces. I would like to thank Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to the force behind the force: the military family. It has long been known that the military services recruit individuals but we retain families. This has never been more true or more critical than it is today.

The support our troops receive from their loving families—mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, spouses, and children—is intangible but it is nothing less than a powerful force multiplier.

Today millions of Americans have one or more family members serving in the Armed Forces. These incredible families attempt to lead normal lives while their loved ones stand in harm's way, fulfilling our Nation's oath to serve and protect. The strength of the military family is astounding. Military parents give their sons and daughters to our Nation and pray relentlessly for their safe return. They look forward to every letter and phone call, while fearing the ringing of the phone and the doorbell at the same time.

As we celebrate military families, let us not forget the sacrifices of the children. Military children are special in their strength and their maturity. They do not always have "home-towns," but they have a heightened sense of family both in the traditional sense and in the special characteristics of the military community.

Military families have an uncanny resilience. They are some of the strongest citizens in this country, and I am privileged to recognize them not only today but every day.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important resolution. Without the support of our military families, the Armed Forces would not be the incredible power they are today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague and leader, the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we recall that our Nation has been at war for over 6 years. It is often in times of conflict that our uniformed services are called upon, as in wartime now, to extraordinary duty.

It is their families that we seem from time to time to forget, but the support of their families is so very important. They are a very special group. Military families regularly face months of separation, one, two, three, and in some cases, four deployments. Children being born—I recall, Mr. Speaker, not all that long ago coming into port and then helicoptered out to the USS *Harry S. Truman* and seeing a good number of sailors being allowed to leave the ship first to meet their family and to meet the newborn children of those families that they had never seen before. Stories of children being born, of precious moments like graduations and birthdays being separated.

I think it is important that we in Congress recognize the importance and give moral support and comfort and thanks to those military families who bond together in times of crisis and help each other. And I think it's incumbent upon every American not only to say thanks and show appreciation to those we see in uniform but to do the same thing for the spouses and the children in those wonderful families.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 295, which I introduced. I would like to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member HUNTER for allowing this resolution to come to the floor. I also want to thank Mr. COURTNEY and, of course, Mr. ROGERS.

Among the many things that make our Nation so great is our strong and valiant military. The strength, courage, and dedication of the men and women in uniform keep us safe at home from threats abroad. While Congress rightfully has and continues to recognize these men and women, so too should we honor their family members who serve as constant pillars of strength for them.

Behind each and every one of the more than 2 million individuals serving in the United States Armed Forces is a multitude of family members, be it mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, spouses, aunts, uncles, extended family, offering encouragement and providing the emotional and physical support our defenders need to successfully protect our Nation. These family members make daily sacrifices as they forgo time with their loved ones and face increased worry and uncertainty as members of the Armed Forces serve extended tours abroad and engage in more frequent training missions.

Even under the most difficult circumstances, when one of our soldiers is wounded in action, these families willingly take on the role of caregiver. They selflessly postpone their personal goals and rearrange their lives to meet the physical and emotional needs of their loved ones as they transition back to civilian life.

Our members of the Armed Forces are able to exhibit the level of strength and devotion that is their trademark, in part because of the network of support that they know they have at home. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 295, which recognizes the integral role the families of our servicemembers play in defense of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise today to express my deepest appreciation to the immediate and extended families of the members of the Armed Forces for their unwavering support that they provide to our Nation's heroes. I urge all my colleagues to do the same by supporting this resolution.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 295.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 297) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 297

Whereas the United States has always had strong Armed Forces made up of courageous men and women serving the ideals of duty, honor, and country;

Whereas the Armed Forces were unfortunately once a place of segregation of the races;

Whereas despite segregation, minority members of the Armed Forces, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, who trained at historic Moton Field in Macon County, Alabama, demonstrated honor and bravery above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the bravery and sacrifice of all members of the Armed Forces regardless of race during World War II and prior conflicts is a matter of national honor;

Whereas the integration of the Armed Forces beginning in 1948 was a seminal event in our Nation's history and instilled the democratic ideal of equality in the military; and

Whereas the continued bravery and dedication of every member of the Armed Forces continues to be a source of pride to every American: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress to honorably and respectfully recognize the historic significance and to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 9981 signed on July 26, 1948 that declared it to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin thereby beginning the process of ending segregation in the United States Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 297, which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the integration of the Armed Forces.

Our military men and women are representative of the fabric of American society. They originate from every region of the world and represent the beautiful diversity of our planet. They bring forth with them a wide array of diverse talents and skill sets that has long made the U.S. military the superpower it is today.

House Concurrent Resolution 297 celebrates the 60th anniversary of President Harry Truman's 1948 executive order declaring that the equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces was the policy of the President. We celebrate this seminal event in our Nation's history for installing the democratic ideals of equality in our military and our country.

During the Second World War, the Tuskegee Airmen broke the color barrier within the Armed Forces to become the first black pilots, navigators, and bombardiers. It was the impenetrable code created from the Navajo language and utilized by the Navajo Code Talkers that helped save lives in the Pacific. Japanese American soldiers volunteered to serve in uniform while their families were held in concentration camps in the United States. It was the ingenuity of refugee scientists escaping anti-Semitism in their homeland that led to the American acquisition of nuclear technology. Diversity has made our Armed Forces and our Nation safer and stronger.

Unfortunately, our Armed Forces was once a place of discrimination and segregation. Many Americans of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent who served in the Armed Forces struggled against frequent episodes of racism and bigotry. Often these American servicemembers felt that they were fighting two wars, one against a foreign enemy and the other against racism from within their own ranks.

Despite great adversity, Americans of minority descent proudly served with honor and bravery, above and beyond the call of duty. We in Congress recognize their contributions and honor them for their sacrifices. The bravery and sacrifice of all members of the Armed Forces, regardless of race, color, or creed, will always be a matter of national honor.

Today the multi-racial makeup of our troops is a testament to the democratic ideals that all Americans hold dear, that all men and women are created equal. Our diverse forces serve as a proud example for the rest of the world in these times of racial and religious intolerance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important resolution.