

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 15

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas men and women from the State of Oregon are citizen-soldiers because of their National Guard or Reserve activation and are currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, in Afghanistan or in other nations in the Middle East; and

Whereas current military operations of the Armed Forces of the United States place citizen-soldiers in the front lines, fighting irregular forces while providing security to civilian populations; and

Whereas many Oregonians serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or the Reserves have been killed or injured while serving their country; and

Whereas current military operations are fraught with extreme danger at every turn, with the majority of casualties resulting from land mines, suicide bombers and improvised explosives in civilian settings; and

Whereas nearly 40 percent of the troops in Iraq are currently National Guard or Reserve soldiers; and

Whereas the military has begun replacing troops completing service in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in other nations in the Middle East and some soldiers are experiencing anxiety as they return to their civilian lives and jobs; and

Whereas returning National Guard and Reserve soldiers are immediately returned to their homes and communities and are denied the continuing close camaraderie and support experienced by members of the regular military, it is important that returning soldiers have adequate time to deal with the stress of being in combat before they rejoin society, reenter the workforce and seek the support of their families; and

Whereas citizen-soldiers need a setting in which they can receive counseling and emotional support as necessary; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to provide returning veterans with the care and respect they deserve by ensuring that they are allowed up to 21 days of "decompression" time following combat duty to transition back into civilian life and the workplace.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House May 19, 2005

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate July 1, 2005

President of Senate