

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

2 INTRODUCED BY M. CAFERRO

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MONTANA'S MILITARY
6 EXPERIENCE, THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD,
7 THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE 163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, AND THE 70TH
8 ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD; AND DECLARING THAT 2017-2018 BE
9 RECOGNIZED AS THE ERA OF RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

10
11 WHEREAS, on July 14, 1867, Montana Territorial Governor Green Clay Smith issued General Order No.
12 1 in Virginia City, officially authorizing the organization of Montana volunteer forces and formally naming them
13 the First Regiment of Montana Volunteers; and

14 WHEREAS, the Montana volunteers, including a volunteer cavalry regiment, were initially the Montana
15 Territorial Volunteers and were mustered by Territorial Secretary Thomas Meagher while serving as Acting
16 Governor in 1867 during Governor Smith's absence; and

17 WHEREAS, on July 27, 1877, Montana Territorial Governor Benjamin F. Potts issued a proclamation that
18 authorized activation of volunteers, called the Montana Territorial Volunteer Militia; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1885, House Bill No. 20 passed, authorizing the organization of a national guard for the
20 territory, and the First Montana Infantry, National Guard, mustered its first company in Virginia City; and

21 WHEREAS, because the need for a state militia was recognized, the Montana Infantry Regiment was
22 reorganized as the Montana National Guard, effected under the Territorial Legislative Act entitled "An Act to
23 Organize and Regulate the Militia, Approved March 10, 1887"; and

24 WHEREAS, on May 2, 1898, Montana was authorized to raise volunteers for a regiment of infantry, the
25 1st Montana Infantry Regiment volunteered as United States Volunteers, and under the command of Colonel
26 Harry C. Kessler, the regiment served in the Spanish-American War and subsequently the Philippine Insurrection,
27 in 1898-99, in which it participated in seven major battles as part of the overall command of Major General Arthur
28 MacArthur; and

29 WHEREAS, the 2nd Montana Infantry, as successor to the 1st Montana Infantry, participated in the
30 Mexican Border Conflict in 1916, and under the command of Colonel "Dynamite" Dan J. Donohue, its mission

1 was to protect border towns and U.S. holdings along the Arizona border; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2nd Montana Infantry, on August 5, 1917, was redesignated as the 163rd Infantry
3 Regiment of the 41st Infantry Division and went on to fight in World War I along with many fellow Montanans who
4 volunteered or were conscripted to serve, and according to Joseph Kinsey Howard, "In World War I, more
5 Montana boys marched away in proportion to population than any other state and more than any other state,
6 proportionately, would never march anywhere again. . . ."; and

7 WHEREAS, the 163rd Infantry Regiment of the 41st Infantry Division responded to the call of 1 year of
8 duty on September 16, 1940, which turned into 5 years of military service during World War II, and of the
9 regiment, Joseph Kinsey Howard said, "In World War II as in World War I, Montanans were quick to enlist, and
10 they were healthy on the home front Montana also had the record of oversubscribing in 8 World War II
11 Savings Bond drives"; and

12 WHEREAS, the Montana National Guard was reconstituted in 1946 as the 163rd Infantry Regimental
13 Combat Team, Montana Army National Guard, and received federal recognition on July 27, 1947; and

14 WHEREAS, the Montana Air National Guard came into being on June 27, 1947, some 70 years ago when
15 the 186th Fighter Squadron was formed, and the 186th Fighter Squadron later transformed into the 120th Fighter
16 Wing; and

17 WHEREAS, Montana men and women have proudly served the nation and state in the forgotten Korean
18 Conflict, Vietnam War, and the Cold War; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1991, the Montana National Guard served the nation as represented by the 103rd Public
20 Affairs Detachment in Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, along with
21 more than 3,000 other Montanans serving in the active and reserve components; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1996, the 103rd Public Affairs Team and other Montana Army and Air National Guard units
23 and service members served in peace enforcement duties as a part of Operation Joint Endeavor; and

24 WHEREAS, in the years between 1996 and 2000 various units of the Montana Army and Air National
25 Guard have served in various peacekeeping rolls in the Pacific, Southwest Asia, and Europe; and

26 WHEREAS, from July 23, 2000, to September 7, 2000, 2,078 soldiers and airmen and women from the
27 Montana Army and Air National Guard were called to state active duty in support of 17 wild land fire incidents in
28 Montana; and

29 WHEREAS, the Montana National Guard, composed of men and women throughout Montana, serving
30 their community, State, and Nation, have been trained, diligent, and accessible during times of need in over 40

1 incidents of mobilization to state active duty from 1910 to the present; and

2 WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Montana Army and Air National Guard
3 has mobilized and deployed nearly 3,000 soldiers and airmen and women for active duty, including state and
4 federal active duty, to support federal security operations and global operations such as Operation Enduring
5 Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn in Southwest Asia, and stabilization operations in
6 Bosnia; and

7 WHEREAS, members of the Montana Army and Air National Guard supported Operation Installation
8 Security and Operation Airport Security to protect Montana's 14 airports, provide security for the 2002 Winter
9 Olympics in Utah, and support federal security efforts by providing soldiers at 10 points of embarkation along the
10 Montana-Canadian border; and

11 WHEREAS, members of the 1/163rd Infantry Regiment recently deployed for Operation Sabre Guardian
12 to Romania to exercise the capabilities of U.S. Forces to respond to potential crises in the area of Eastern Europe
13 as a part of NATO forces; and

14 WHEREAS, elements of the Montana Air National Guard have continuously deployed and are continuing
15 to deploy in response to national security objectives; and

16 WHEREAS, it is fully recognized that these required mobilizations and deployments of Montana Army
17 and Air National Guard members have adverse affects on families, work, and communities due to the temporary
18 loss of the service members and also have social and financial costs; and

19 WHEREAS, the fine tradition of service to Montana and the United States is ably demonstrated by the
20 nearly 230,000 Montana veterans who have participated in all branches of the service during the past 150 years;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, current and new military veterans continue to contribute their strength to Montana by
23 providing leadership in business, government, and industry and continue to add value to Montana; and

24 WHEREAS, it is our duty and responsibility to support them, remember them, and help them in time of
25 need.

26
27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
28 STATE OF MONTANA:

29 That the Montana Legislature recognize the many Montanans who have served in the past and who
30 currently serve in the military to make Montana and the United States a better place.

