

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: John Fuller - (H) State Administration

68th Legislature - 2023

Drafter: Andria Hardin,

SJ0018.001.001

1 manifest that the 163rd Infantry--Montana's own--has been of imperishable fame in the jungles and on the
2 heights of New Guinea in most arduous combat against a implacable foe, and has from the very outbreak of
3 hostilities demonstrated the finest attributes of the American soldier, in devotion to training, fraternization and
4 cooperation with free peoples of the great Pacific world to the south, and in the deep resolve to establish the
5 rule of law among the nations of the earth.

6 The heart of all the people of Montana, while vibrant with affection for the Regiment, are burdened with
7 pain at its losses, and determined to repay the holy obligation resulting from their sacrifices, by solemnly
8 assuming the responsibility of free men in support of the reign of law throughout the earth.

9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the twenty-eighth Legislative Assembly of
10 the State of Montana, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Assembly tenders to every
11 officer and to every man of the 163rd Infantry Regiment the deep gratitude of the whole body of our citizens for
12 the great victory which our men have won, purchased with the blood of their bravest, hopeful that the Regiment
13 will accept this expression as an evidence of the love and devotion which we have for it, and which sustains us
14 on the home front and inspires us to dedicate each day to aid our men overseas.

15 That we ask the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, when the Regiment is placed in his hands, to
16 communicate the continuing homage of Montana people to General Douglas MacArthur, whose father, General
17 Arthur MacArthur, led the Montana Regiment of 1899 to a victory that brought freedom to the Philippines who
18 have proved their brotherhood with us and with whose help General Douglas MacArthur as his father's
19 successor, and with the aid of our Regiment, will restore those peoples of thieves of the Pacific to the dignity of
20 men.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following message be cabled at once, through military or other
22 appropriate channels, to the Commander of the 163rd Infantry Regiment in the combat zone:

23 WITH VIBRANT ADMIRATION FOR YOUR MAGNIFICENT VICTORY OVER THE JAPANESE ON
24 THE PAPUAN PENINSULA OF NEW GUINEA AND ELSEWHERE, WITH PRAYERS OF THE WOUNDED
25 AND WITH UNDYING RESOLVE TO CARRY THE HIGH PURPOSE OF OUR NOBLE DEAD, THE HEARTS
26 OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA ARE WITH YOU AS ONE EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, THE TWENTY-
27 EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MONTANA IN SESSION AT HELENA. /s/ Earnest T. Eaton, President
28 of the Senate & /s/ Gee W. O'Conner, Speaker of the House"; and

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1 WHEREAS, the resolution was approved on March 5, 1943, by Sam C. Ford, Governor, and
2 transmitted by memorandum and telegram to Montana's 163rd Infantry Regiment in which it was distributed
3 along with a special commemorative personalized print of the Capitol and the General Meagher Statue to every
4 member of the regiment by the Adjutant of the 163rd Infantry Regiment by Captain James R. Kent, by order of
5 the Regimental Commander, Colonel Jens Doe, later the Commander of the 41st Division; and

6 WHEREAS, in February 2002, members of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were mobilized to
7 Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge, where they were tasked with peacekeeping operations across war-
8 torn Bosnia and executed this mission flawlessly, representing Montana in an exemplary fashion; and

9 WHEREAS, in June 2004, the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment was mobilized as part of the 116th
10 Brigade to deploy to northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, participating in an arduous 6-month
11 post-mobilization training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Fort Bliss, Texas, before heading for the deserts of Iraq,
12 where they faced a harsh climate and constant altercations with terrorists during the challenging 12-month tour,
13 but resulted in the 163rd Infantry Regiment being recognized with the Valorous Unit Citation; and

14 WHEREAS, in September 2010, the men and women of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were
15 again called upon for another mobilization to the deserts of Iraq for Operation New Dawn in southern and
16 central Iraq, where they spent nearly 9 months escorting logistical convoys around the entire country, and after
17 returning home, their efforts were recognized with the Meritorious Unit Citation; and

18 WHEREAS, in November 2021, the soldiers of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were reorganized
19 into Task Force Griz and mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where after a post-mobilization
20 training at Fort Bliss, Texas, they headed to Kuwait to serve as a ready response force for U.S. Central
21 Command, where for a year Task Force Griz supported operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and
22 many other countries across the region, including executing numerous training exercises with NATO partners.

23
24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

26 That the Legislature does hereby honor our Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment veterans, their families,
27 and all those who supported our nation's efforts to right a wrong and restore peace through strength from 1940
28 to 1946, expending time, talent, and sacrifice to include the ultimate sacrifice in support of freedom.