

SHORT TITLE: Memorializing the President and the Congress to maintain a strong National Guard; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 33

By: Wright of the Senate

and

Hefner of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain National Guard strength at the highest possible level; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Cold War, a shrinking defense budget has forced the federal government to reduce the size of the American defense establishment. While conflict with Russia is presently remote, nightly news reports remind us daily that threats to American security remain. Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, the Caucasus region, and other hot spots exist in abundance. Recently, worries over North Korea's nuclear weapons program have added to the many problems that confront our nation; and

WHEREAS, the dilemma our policymakers face is to balance the need to divert financial resources to domestic concerns with the need to keep our defenses sound. A policy that lessens the victory in the Cold War after nearly five decades of bearing the cost of protecting freedom is truly short-sighted. How could we explain to the veterans of the Chosin Reservoir, or the siege of Khe Sanh, or Desert Storm that their sacrifice was for nought because America no longer wished to accept its responsibility to stand for freedom? Yet the federal budget must be cut in meaningful ways to provide our children with a better future; and

WHEREAS, an ideal method of keeping our defenses strong and economizing so that domestic concerns may be addressed is to place our reliance on the combat-proven National Guard. The Guard's history is filled with its ability to come to our nation's defense. From the first Minutemen who answered the call to arms to stand shoulder-to-shoulder outgunned and outnumbered against the Redcoats at Lexington and Concord, to the professional performance of National Guard soldiers and air personnel called to active duty in Desert Storm, our citizen-soldiers have proven their worth. National Guard soldiers or air personnel each cost but a fraction of active military personnel, and while active duty troops must be kept in sufficient numbers to react quickly to crises, reservists in the right proportion are invaluable towards creating the largest Total Force possible; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard also fills a much-needed state role in providing relief service during natural disasters and in giving our police departments vital back-up for civil disturbances. Any cut-backs in the National Guard that force a state governor to call for federal assistance could end up costing more money by requiring federal troops to be sent to deal with tasks normally assigned to the Guard. In addition, by preserving the National Guard's important role in our nation's defense, we maintain the strong link between our people and our military and promote public debate over foreign policy decisions that could result in combat. Calling up the reserves for Desert Storm prompted public debate and resulted in our troops going into battle secure in the knowledge that the people back home supported them. Truly, the services provided by the Army National Guard and Air National Guard to our country and our states are too important to allow the Guard to wither.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain National Guard strength at the highest possible level.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the State of Oklahoma's Washington, D.C. office for distribution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

44-2-1597

THC