

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 67

By: Littlefield and Gustafson of the
Senate

and

Hutchison, Adair, Adkins, Askins,
Bastin, Begley, Benson, Beutler,
Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd (Betty),
Boyd (Laura), Braddock, Bryant,
Case, Claunch, Coleman, Collins,
Covey, Cox, Culver, Dank, Davis,
Deutschendorf, Dunegan, Easley,
Eddins, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson,
Fields, Frame, Gilbert, Glover,
Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hager,
Hamilton, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett,
Hilliard, Ingmire, Key, Kinnamon,
Kirby, Kouba, Langmacher, Leist,
Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, Mass,
Matlock, McCarter, Miller,
Mitchell, Morgan, Newport, O'Neal,
Ostrander, Paulk, Perry,
Pettigrew, Phillips, Plunk, Pope
(Clay), Pope (Tim), Ramsey, Reese,
Rice, Roach, Roberts, Ross,
Sadler, Satterfield, Seikel,
Settle, Smith (Dale), Smith
(Hopper), Staggs, Stanley,
Steidley, Stites, Sullivan (John),
Sullivan (Leonard), Taylor,
Thomas, Thornbrugh, Toure, Turner,
Tyler, Vaughn, Voskuhl, Weaver,
Webb, Weese, Wells, Wilt and
Worthen of the House

A Concurrent Resolution commending the Veterans of Underage
Military Service; supporting their endeavors; and directing
distribution.

WHEREAS, throughout history, nations have called upon their
youth to fight their wars, and it is inevitable that some men and
women under the legal age, usually driven by strong patriotism, have
enlisted in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, in some instances, these youths were discovered and
separated from the service, sometimes after they had already seen
action. Sometimes, after being discharged from one branch of
service for being underage, they promptly enlisted in another
branch; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma recognizes these men and women
who understood the importance of fighting for freedom and seeks to
honor their valiant efforts as defenders of the United States of
America during times of war and peace; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Underage Military Service (VUMS) was formed in 1990 to help such individuals, who were frequently discharged from the service and stripped of their awards and their military benefits; and

WHEREAS, the primary goals of the VUMS organization are to contact all veterans who served in any branch of the United States Armed Forces when they were under legal age; and to advise and assist them in obtaining a proper discharge and veterans' benefits; and

WHEREAS, a secondary VUMS goal is to establish a historical record of underage veterans by publishing their names, deeds and stories. Calvin Graham served with heroism when he was 12 years old at Guadalcanal and the television movie "Too Young the Hero" was based on his life while a book "America's Young Warriors", which recounts the exploits of 199 men and women who, before attaining legal age, served in the armed forces of the United States, has already been published; and

WHEREAS, the organization currently consists of more than 1,000 members who served in the United States Armed Forces before they were of legal age; and

WHEREAS, more than one Medal of Honor recipient who enlisted before they were of legal age has been identified, as has the Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and the head of the Selective Service System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends the Veterans of Underage Military Service for the organization's attempts to locate, assist and honor all underage veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports the endeavors of the Veterans of Underage Military Service.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, Jack Brown, the Oklahoma Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service organization and George Brouse, the National Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service organization.

Adopted by the Senate the 20th day of May, 1998.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 27th day of May, 1998.

Speaker of the House of Representatives