STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 64 By: Taylor of the Senate

and

Adair of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution commending and honoring the 45th Thunderbird Infantry Division; encouraging and supporting all members of the Oklahoma National Guard and Reserve; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in Oklahoma the 45th Infantry Division traces its roots to the Oklahoma Territorial Militia, which was formed in 1890. Contingents were called upon to support operations in Cuba during the Spanish American War, and the 1st Oklahoma Infantry Regiment fought in the Mexican Border Conflict in 1916; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, the 45th Infantry Division was formed from contingents of the National Guard units of Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Proudly wearing their new symbol, the Thunderbird, they were called into federal service in September of 1940; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Thunderbirds fought for 511 days, capturing 126,000 prisoners with 28,000 casualties. They were credited with eight campaigns from four amphibious landings. Eight Thunderbirds were awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1950, the 45th was called to action for the Korean War as one of only two National Guard Divisions to see action in the war. Through numerous battles, at no time did the North Koreans break their lines. The unit stayed in Korea until the peace accord was signed; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Division was reorganized as the 45th Separate Infantry Brigade of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. The unit saw combat during the Persian Gulf War. Although there have been reorganizations and renumbering of units, the proud Thunderbirds of the Oklahoma Army National Guard and all citizen soldiers of the Oklahoma National Guard and Reserve forces stand ready today to serve their state and nation when duty calls; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of Oklahoma's military department is to preserve the state and nation through organization and training, to be ready for federal duty when called upon by the President of the United States pursuant to Congressional authority, and to be ready for state duty when called upon by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends and honors the 45th Thunderbird Infantry Division and all Oklahoma Army National Guard soldiers for their history of defense of this country, valor in combat, and readiness to make the ultimate sacrifice to uphold the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice that we all hold so dear.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages and supports the 45th and all members of the Oklahoma National Guard and Reserve Forces as citizen soldiers to continue to train and be ready should any emergency occur and require their duty to protect the sacred rights and people of the United States of America and the Great State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Adjutant General and the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

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