

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 745

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the 168th Military Police Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, for meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 168th Military Police Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, have served with courage and gallantry and deserve proper recognition for their heroic service during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brad Bishop, the 168th Military Police Battalion is headquartered in Dyersburg, Tennessee, and is a subordinate command of the 30th Troop Command, Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, mobilized in October of 2008, the Battalion conducted detainee operations at the world's largest Theater Internment Facility in direct support of Multi-National Forces-Iraq and its headquarters company, as well as the 42nd Military Police Brigade and the 89th Military Police Brigade; and

WHEREAS, based in Camp Bucca, Iraq, the 168th Military Police Battalion maintained 24-hour operations for six compounds where approximately 5,000 detainees were housed, all of whom were treated with the highest level of dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Battalion was composed of six company-sized units throughout its tour, forming a joint interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational force that supported over 900 members from the Navy, Air Force and Army; and

WHEREAS, the main effort of the 168th Military Police Battalion focused on compound operations, with compounds defined by having black, red, amber, or green designations, depending on the detainees' threat level and ideology; and

WHEREAS, the 168th Military Police Battalion consistently distinguished itself as a group of men and women who worked well together towards a common goal, and they were often called upon by battalion and brigade leadership to establish standards for the good of the Theater Interment Facility; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Battalion coordinated all non-governmental organization activities within the detainee operations mission, including International Committee of the Red Cross, Iraq's Ministry of Human Rights, and Force Strategic Engagement Cell initiatives and engagements; and

WHEREAS, the unit also coordinated and implemented Responsible Draw Down of the Bucca Theater Interment Facility, both operationally and logistically, and the eventual closure of detainee operations at Bucca; and

WHEREAS, for demonstrating the ability to innovate and accomplish its mission beyond the call of duty, the 168th Military Police Battalion was awarded the United States Army's Meritorious Unit Commendation; and

WHEREAS, having distinguished themselves in the line of duty, the members of the Battalion returned home to Tennessee in October of 2009; area residents lined the sidewalks of Dyersburg's Veterans' Square, waving flags and cheering as the convoy of brave soldiers made their way through town toward the National Guard Armory and their awaiting family members; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 168th Military Police Battalion performed their duties with honor, distinction, and profound regard for the importance of their role in Operation Iraqi Freedom; their service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the members of the 168th Military Police Battalion for meritorious service in the Tennessee Army National Guard as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, commend them upon their receipt of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and offer our deepest gratitude for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.