

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2003-4670, by Representatives Woods, Romero, Alexander, Conway, Berkey, Rockefeller, Edwards, Ahern, Anderson, Armstrong, Bailey, Benson, Blake, Boldt, Buck, Bush, Cairnes, Campbell, Carrell, Chandler, Chase, Chopp, Clements, Clibborn, Cody, Condotta, Cooper, Cox, Crouse, Darneille, DeBolt, Delvin, Dickerson, Dunshee, Eickmeyer, Ericksen, Flannigan, Fromhold, Grant, Haigh, Hankins, Hatfield, Hinkle, Holmquist, Hudgins, Hunt, Hunter, Jarrett, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kirby, Kristiansen, Lantz, Linville, Lovick, Mastin, McCoy, McDermott, McDonald, McIntire, McMahan, McMorris, Mielke, Miloscia, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Murray, Newhouse, Nixon, O'Brien, Orcutt, Ormsby, Pearson, Pettigrew, Pflug, Priest, Quall, Roach, Ruderman, Santos, Schindler, Schoesler, Schual-Berke, Sehlin, Shabro, Simpson, G., Skinner, Sommers, Sullivan, Sump, Talcott, Tom, Upthegrove, Voloria, Wallace and Wood

WHEREAS, Over eight thousand five hundred men and women of the Washington National Guard, comprised of Air National Guard and Army National Guard, continue to serve the country as Guardians of American interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, These citizen-soldiers are recognized leaders in state, regional, and national preparedness, reside in every legislative district throughout Washington, and volunteer their time and personal efforts to serve the needs of the people of Washington state; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Army National Guard includes the 81st Armor Brigade (Separate) commanded by Brigadier General, Oscar B. Hilman; and

WHEREAS, The members of the 81st Armor Brigade stand ready to defend the lives and property of the citizens of the state of Washington, to defend this nation, and to defend the interests of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, The federal mission of the 81st Armor Brigade is to mobilize and deploy to a theater of operations to conduct combat operations, redeploy, and demobilize, and its state mission is to be prepared for employment in the protection of life and property, and the preservation of peace, order, and public safety, and/or disaster relief operations as required; and

WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade came into existence as "straight-leg" infantry in 1968 but its origins go back to World War I; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has called-up the 81st Armor Brigade to State Active Duty on several occasions in past years to provide support in protecting lives and property from natural disasters; the Snohomish River valley flood in December 1975, the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in May 1980, the "Thanksgiving Day Floods in November 1990, and the massive forest fires in Eastern Washington in July to early September 1994, at which time 2,300 81st Armor Brigade personnel were fighting fires and providing support for local, state, and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade recently received Department of the Army mobilization orders that brought them on active duty beginning November 15, 2003, for eighteen months of federal active duty to include at least 12 months in Iraq conducting security, support, and stabilization operations; and

WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade is one of three National Guard Enhanced Separate combat brigades nationwide that has been identified to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Members of the 81st Armor Brigade will spend several weeks of predeployment training at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center, coordinating their absence with their employers, and putting their personal affairs in order; and

WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade is made up of the 1st Battalion, 303rd Armor and 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, the 898th Engineer Battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, the 181st Support Battalion, Troop E, 303rd Cavalry, the 281st Military Intelligence Company, Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Armor Brigade; and

WHEREAS, The members of the 81st Armor Brigade are dedicated troops, well-trained in all aspects of their mission, and perform their duties with great confidence and skill; and

WHEREAS, The members of the 81st Armor Brigade make great personal and professional sacrifices to serve our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The families of the members of the 81st Armor Brigade endure not only the hardship of separation, but offer the greatest gift they possess on behalf of this nation - the health and life of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The employers of the members of the 81st Armor Brigade have gone above and beyond the call of duty with their support of the Washington National Guard mission; and

WHEREAS, Major General, Timothy J. Lowenberg, commander of the Washington National Guard, expressed his confidence that the 81st Armor Brigade will be ready to take on this important mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express its gratitude and appreciation to the soldiers and airmen of the Washington National Guard and their families and employers without whom the Washington National Guard's missions could not be successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and honor the commitment to duty, bravery, and self-sacrifice of the members of the 81st Armor Brigade, the devotion and sacrifice that is made by their families and loved ones allowing them to serve our great state and nation, and the support and sacrifice of their employers ensuring them the opportunity and security to serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Washington National Guard Commanding Officer, Major General, Timothy J. Lowenberg; the 81st Armor Brigade Commanding Officer, Brigadier General, Oscar B. Hilman; the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 303rd Armor, Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Kapral; the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, Lieutenant Colonel Keith Lochner; the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Fowler; the Commanding Officer of the 898th Engineer Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Duane Coffey; the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, Major Grant Lingg; the Commanding Officer of the 181st Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Gonzalez; the Commanding Officer of Troop E 303rd Cav, Captain Anthony Lonsdale; the Commanding Officer of the 281st Military Intelligence Company, Captain Stanley Seo; the Commanding Officer of the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery, Major Peter Lillie; the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Armor Brigade, Major George Dukes; the Governor of the State of Washington, the Honorable Gary Locke; the Acting Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Les Brownlee; the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld; and the President of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4670 adopted by the House of Representatives
December 5, 2003

Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk