
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4020

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilmer, Woods, Haigh, Appleton, Campbell, McCoy and Lantz

Read first time 03/01/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of our nation's military history, tens of
9 thousands of war dogs served during World War I, World War II, Korea,
10 Vietnam, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo peacekeeping operations, and
11 coalition operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

12 WHEREAS, These war dogs were specifically trained for jobs like
13 scout, sentry, tracker, mine and booby trap detection, tunnel, water
14 patrol, coast guard, messenger, and search and rescue; and

15 WHEREAS, American's war dog teams have a long and legendary history
16 of courage, heroism, and sacrifice on thousands of foreign fields of
17 battle and are credited with saving countless numbers of lives of
18 Americans, allies, and noncombantants; and

19 WHEREAS, War dogs have significantly reduced the enemy's capacity
20 to sabotage or destroy war equipment worth billions of dollars; and

1 WHEREAS, War dogs work for food, water, and the love, loyalty, and
2 bond of their handlers; and

3 WHEREAS, At the end of World War II the thousands of military
4 working dogs were hailed as heroes and discharged from the military
5 service and returned to the United States where many were repatriated
6 with the families that donated them, while others were released to the
7 custody of their handlers to live the rest of their lives in peace; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, however, all dogs were classified
9 as equipment and deemed expendable and most of the surviving dogs were
10 either transferred to the South Vietnam Army for duty or euthanized;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The loving bond and extreme loyalty between dog and
13 handler is unconditional and immeasurable and it was extremely
14 difficult for the handlers in Vietnam to leave their dogs behind; and

15 WHEREAS, A National War Dog Team Memorial will give those handlers
16 and other soldiers who relied on war dogs for their safety and survival
17 the opportunity to have an enduring tribute to their loyal and loving
18 companions and protectors; and

19 WHEREAS, War dog handlers have joined together to create and fund
20 a fitting memorial to war dogs to be placed in Washington, D.C.;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
22 President and Congress of the United States will take the action
23 necessary to authorize the placement of the National War Dog Memorial
24 in a location of honor in Washington, D.C.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
26 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
27 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
29 Washington.

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