
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Prentice, Fairley, Kauffman, Berkey, Marr, Fraser, Franklin, Pridemore, Brown, Murray, Eide, Rockefeller, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Tom, Kilmer, Kline, Oemig, Delvin, Shin, Schoesler, Benton, McAuliffe, Spanel, Keiser, Sheldon, Roach, Parlette and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/13/2007. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

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, There are over 670,000 veterans who choose to make the
9 State of Washington their home; and

10 WHEREAS, During recent conflicts, more men and women have stepped
11 up to join the ranks of those who unhesitatingly came forward to offer
12 their lives in the service of our country; and

13 WHEREAS, The recent escalation of troops will require even more
14 brave individuals to make sacrifices for their nation; and

15 WHEREAS, These sacrifices must not be made only by those on the
16 front lines, but instead, the country as a whole must make whatever
17 sacrifices it needs to shelter, support, educate, nurture, and heal
18 those who have returned home and their families; and

19 WHEREAS, A 2006 federal study has determined that over 19 percent

1 of soldiers returning from Iraq have been diagnosed with mental health
2 problems; 20,000 have been wounded; and over 3,000 will not return to
3 their families at all; and

4 WHEREAS, The backlog of compensation claims at the United States
5 Department of Veterans Affairs has grown from 363,412 in December of
6 2000 to 589,583 in September of last year, an increase of nearly 50
7 percent, while the staffing of the Veterans Benefits Administration
8 remained nearly the same; and

9 WHEREAS, Our veterans often wait years for the medical care or
10 other benefits they need; and

11 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Washington State receive adequate
12 federal resources to support its current and future veterans in the
13 manner they deserve;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
15 President and Congress fund the United States Department of Veterans
16 Affairs and stop the erosion of benefits for Washington State's
17 veterans.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
20 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
22 Washington.

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