

By: Noriega

H.R. No. 1205

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The dedicated service and immeasurable sacrifice of
2 our nation's military personnel are being recognized May 17, 2003,
3 as Americans observe this country's 53rd annual Armed Forces Day;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Before 1950, separate days had been set aside to
6 honor the branches of the armed forces individually; the
7 establishment of a single observance followed the combining in 1947
8 of the Departments of War and Navy into one entity, the National
9 Military Establishment, which two years later became known as the
10 Department of Defense; and

11 WHEREAS, Members of the army, navy, marines, air force, and
12 coast guard are justly proud of the heroic records forged by those
13 branches and by their continuing contributions to the security of
14 American citizens at home and abroad; and

15 WHEREAS, The U.S. Army was established on June 14, 1775, when
16 the Second Continental Congress authorized the formation of 10
17 companies of riflemen; from the American Revolution to the present
18 operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the army has furnished the
19 majority of American ground troops when the country has taken up
20 arms; today this service is composed of 15 basic branches,
21 including Infantry, Military Intelligence, Aviation, the Corps of
22 Engineers, and Special Forces, and four special branches: the Army
23 Medical Department, Chaplains, Judge Advocate General's Corps, and
24 Civil Affairs; and

1 WHEREAS, On October 13, 1775, the Second Continental Congress
2 called for the fitting out of two warships, thereby founding the
3 Continental Navy; although disbanded following the conclusion of
4 the Revolutionary War, this service was reestablished with the
5 creation of the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798;
6 approximately 381,000 men and women are presently serving on active
7 naval duty, ensuring the defense of the nation by sea and giving
8 seaborne support to the other military forces; and

9 WHEREAS, A month after the Continental Congress authorized
10 the procurement and dispatching of the navy's first ships, it
11 passed a resolution, on November 10, 1775, calling for the raising
12 of two marine battalions; the Marine Corps disbanded, like the
13 navy, following the War of Independence, but it was reestablished
14 on July 11, 1798; a separate service within the Department of the
15 Navy, the Marine Corps prepares for counterinsurgency, guerilla,
16 and amphibious warfare and commando operations; and

17 WHEREAS, The U.S. Air Force, which became a separate branch
18 within the Department of Defense on September 18, 1947, had its
19 genesis in the 1907 creation of an aeronautical division within the
20 U.S. Army Signal Corps; military aviation subsequently achieved
21 widespread recognition during World War I, when planes proved their
22 effectiveness in reconnaissance and bombing missions, and air power
23 became a crucial factor in World War II, during which the U.S. Army
24 Air Forces emerged as the most powerful air force in the world; the
25 missions of today's air force include the collection of
26 intelligence via satellites and aircraft and the exploration of
27 space; and

1 WHEREAS, Now part of the Department of Homeland Security, the
2 Coast Guard has assumed many duties throughout its history, from
3 protecting against pirates to intercepting contraband, conducting
4 search and rescue operations, responding to oil spills, and
5 licensing and certifying all U.S. maritime personnel; its
6 wide-ranging wartime service has included escort and patrol duty
7 and assisting amphibious landings; and

8 WHEREAS, Together with members of the reserve forces, the
9 Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard, America's active
10 duty servicemen and servicewomen are committed to maintaining the
11 nation's security and prepared to do their utmost in defense of
12 their country and the cause of freedom; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize May 17, 2003, as Armed Forces Day and
15 extend to all the members of the nation's military profound
16 appreciation for their steadfast and courageous efforts in our
17 country's behalf.