

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 494

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to the men and women of Fort Bliss and their invaluable contributions to El Paso, our state, and the nation on the occasion of Fort Bliss Day at the State Capitol, which is being celebrated on March 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1849, Fort Bliss integrates elements from five major United States Army commands and is home to a diverse array of training and tactical units; it is composed of state-of-the-art training areas, ranges, and facilities and is led by innovative, focused professionals; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bliss is home to an active duty military force of more than 14,000 soldiers, and with family members and retirees, the Fort Bliss community encompasses a population of more than 135,000; through upcoming base realignments and closures, Fort Bliss is expected to gain approximately 20,000 soldiers over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, more than 100,000 personnel have deployed through Fort Bliss, and the base expects to continue to play a major role in the continuing war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bliss is the largest single employer in the El Paso area and has an annual local economic impact of more than \$2 billion; rated as the United States Army installation with the highest military value, it is a premier facility for the training, mobilization, and deployment of combat forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the men and women of Fort Bliss for their many contributions to the defense of our nation and extend to their delegation a heartfelt welcome to Austin for Fort Bliss Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the soldiers of Fort Bliss as an expression of gratitude and high regard from the Texas Senate.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 21, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate