

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 918

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 on May 16,
3 2009, as Americans observe this country's 59th annual Armed Forces
4 Day; 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 a number of basic branches,
21 including Infantry, Military Intelligence, Aviation, the Corps of
22 Engineers, and Special Forces, and such special branches as the
23 Army Medical Department, Chaplains, and Judge Advocate General's
24 Corps; 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, and today,
6 naval personnel ensure the defense of the nation by sea and give
7 seaborne support to the other military forces; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Now part of the Department of Homeland Security, the
27 U.S. Coast Guard has assumed many duties throughout its history,

1 from protecting against pirates to intercepting contraband,
2 conducting search and rescue operations, responding to oil spills,
3 and licensing and certifying all U.S. maritime personnel; its
4 wide-ranging wartime service has included escort and patrol duty
5 and assisting amphibious landings; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize May 16, 2009, as Armed Forces Day and
13 extend to all the members of the nation's military profound
14 appreciation for their steadfast and courageous efforts in our
15 country's behalf.