

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.4686, by Representatives Benson, Ahern, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Bailey, Blake, Boldt, Buck, Bush, Cairnes, Campbell, Carrell, Chandler, Chase, Chopp, Clements, Clibborn, Cody, Condotta, Conway, Cooper, Cox, Crouse, Darneille, DeBolt, Delvin, Dickerson, Dunshee, Edwards, Eickmeyer, Ericksen, Flannigan, Fromhold, Grant, Haigh, Hankins, Hatfield, Hinkle, Holmquist, Hudgins, Hunt, Hunter, Jarrett, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kirby, Kristiansen, Lantz, Linville, Lovick, Mastin, McCoy, McDermott, McDonald, McIntire, McMahan, McMorris, Mielke, Miloscia, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Murray, Newhouse, Nixon, O'Brien, Orcutt, Ormsby, Pearson, Pettigrew, Priest, Quall, Roach, Rockefeller, Rodne, Romero, Ruderman, Santos, Schindler, Schoesler, Schual-Berke, Sehlin, Shabro, Simpson, D., Simpson, G., Skinner, Sommers, Sullivan, Sump, Talcott, Tom, Upthegrove, Voloria, Wallace, Wood and Woods

WHEREAS, Nearly eight thousand eight hundred men and women of the Washington National Guard composed of Air National Guard and Army National Guard continue to serve the country as guardians of American interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, These recognized leaders in state, regional, and national preparedness who reside in every legislative district throughout Washington volunteer their time and use their personal efforts to serve the needs of the people of Washington state; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard again answered the state's call numerous times in the last year and provided fire fighting support efforts in response to fires threatening thousands of acres of public and private lands, and protected lives in both civil and natural emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard has provided additional security at our state's airports, and at numerous locations across the globe in response to the horrific terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard was activated to serve our nation in support of international border crossing security this last year to protect our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard continues to promote positive lifestyles and activities for Washington's youth through involvement and support in highly effective drug prevention programs with school-aged children and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard continues to be an active participant in the state's counter-drug efforts by providing soldiers, airmen, and specialized equipment in support of seventy local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, The dedication of these men and women last year contributed to hundreds of drug-related arrests and seizures and the destruction of millions of dollars of illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard adds value to communities by opening armories for public use for distance learning classes, food banks, and other community and youth activities; and

WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard continues to build upon these readiness centers/armories throughout the state to enhance education, add to quality of life, and increase economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the major units and members of the Washington National Guard have been called to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and serve with dedication, valor, and courage, and at great personal risk and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The families of guardsmen and women called to active duty are continuing their lives in support of their loved ones, with great hardship and challenge;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express its thanks and appreciation to the devoted families and dedicated employers of our Washington National Guard personnel for their support, without which the Washington National Guard's missions could not be successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives specifically and particularly recognize the value and dedication of a strong Washington National Guard to the viability, economy,

safety, security, and well-being of this state, both through the outstanding performance of its state emergency and disaster relief mission, and through the continued benefit to local communities by the presence of productively employed, drug-free, and well-equipped and trained Guard units and the readiness center/armories that house them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to The Adjutant General of the Washington National Guard, the Governor of the State of Washington, the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, and the President of the United States.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4686 adopted by the House of Representatives
February 6, 2004

Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk