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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8039

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Jacobsen, Kastama, Thibaudeau, Berkey, Fraser, Doumit, Prentice, Horn, Kohl-Welles, Kline, Fairley, Oke, Stevens, Hale, Zarelli, T. Sheldon, B. Sheldon, Schmidt, McAuliffe, Murray, Spanel, Rasmussen, Winsley and Benton

Read first time 01/26/2004. 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, The Department of Defense's military installations in  
9 Washington State play a vital role in the defense of the United States  
10 of America and its citizens and residents, both by providing a power  
11 projection platform ideally situated geographically and by providing  
12 leadership within the military through innovation in transformational  
13 efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, The military installations in Washington State are  
15 striving to perform their current missions as efficiently and  
16 effectively as possible and to improve their ability to contribute to  
17 the defense of the nation for the long term; and

18 WHEREAS, The majority of major conflicts of the 20th century have  
19 been in or around the Pacific Ocean, including World War II, the Korean

1 War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi  
2 Freedom, and the emerging threats of the 21st century are in that same  
3 area; and

4 WHEREAS, Each of the military installations in Washington performs  
5 vital strategic functions, including the only homeport for Trident  
6 Ballistic Missile Submarines on the Pacific Coast, the only torpedo  
7 manufacturing facility in the nation, the only deep draft military  
8 shipyard on the Pacific Coast, a major base for C-17 aircraft, the sole  
9 Air Force Survival School in the nation, and the only major Army  
10 installation west of the Rocky mountains capable of large scale troop  
11 deployment; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington State has an excellent working relationship at  
13 both the state and local level with each of the military installations,  
14 demonstrated in part by the numerous partnerships among the military  
15 and local governments and private and nonprofit sectors in providing  
16 services to both military and civilian personnel, by involvement of  
17 military installations in state and local land use, transportation and  
18 other planning, and by the ongoing community support to the military  
19 personnel and their families; and

20 WHEREAS, The military's presence, in all forms, contributes greatly  
21 to the economy, security, and social fabric of Washington State as one  
22 of the largest employers in the state, a significant purchaser of  
23 goods, services, and construction from the private sector, and a source  
24 of leadership in state, local, and community organizations; and

25 WHEREAS, Washington State consistently provides a high quality of  
26 life to military personnel stationed in our state, evidenced by the  
27 large number of terminal postings to bases in Washington State,  
28 additionally, our state benefits from the large number of skilled and  
29 talented military personnel and their families who remain in or return  
30 to Washington after leaving active duty; and

31 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature recognizes the importance  
32 of the Department of Defense's military installations within Washington  
33 State, both to the defense of the United States and the vitality of  
34 Washington as an economy and a people;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
36 President, Congress, and the Department of Defense will recognize the  
37 strategic importance of these bases to our nation's security and not

1 make them victims of this round of the Base Realignment and Closure  
2 process.

3 Your Memorialists further pray that the military facilities in  
4 Washington state will continue to serve in the defense of our nation  
5 for many years to come.

6 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
7 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
8 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
9 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
10 Washington.

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