

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.183

Rep. Fink offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express our appreciation for the American
2 troops who served in Afghanistan.

3 Whereas, On September 11, 2001, the United States was struck
4 by the largest terrorist attack in our nation's history. As a
5 result, the War on Terror began and the first U.S. troops arrived
6 in Afghanistan in October of 2001. By December of 2001, roughly
7 2,500 American troops were on the ground, scouring the mountainous
8 regions looking for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and conducting
9 counter-terrorism efforts against the Taliban; and

10 Whereas, America continued to send in greater numbers of U.S.
11 troops, reaching its peak at 100,000 troops on the ground serving
12 by the end of 2010; and

1 Whereas, Following the discovery of Osama bin Laden in May of
2 2011, the U.S. began to slowly bring our troops back home. By 2015
3 the number had declined to 9,800 troops left who were to continue
4 counter-terrorism missions and to advise the Afghan authorities;
5 and

6 Whereas, Following a withdrawal agreement made by President
7 Trump, the U.S. forces in Afghanistan were reduced to 2,500 troops
8 by January 2021, with a complete withdrawal planned for May 2021;
9 and

10 Whereas, In April 2021, President Biden announced that the
11 withdrawal process would be extended to September 11, he later
12 moved the date up to August 31. Mounting unrest led to the Taliban
13 entering the Afghanistan capital of Kabul on August 15, 2021. What
14 followed was a chaotic dash to evacuate diplomats, troops, and
15 American civilians, along with Afghans who had assisted the U.S.;
16 and

17 Whereas, All of the U.S. troops were successfully evacuated
18 from Afghanistan by the end of August 2021. However, there still
19 remains several hundred U.S. citizens awaiting evacuation; and

20 Whereas, A study done by Brown University estimates that
21 between 1.9 and three million U.S. service members have served in
22 Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, with over half of them deployed
23 more than once. Roughly 2,300 troops paid the ultimate sacrifice in
24 Afghanistan during the nearly twenty-year stint, 13 of which died
25 during the evacuation in Kabul; and

26 Whereas, We acknowledge that many others were wounded during
27 the conflict. Even for those who have comeback unharmed physically,
28 their mental health and well-being in many instances is a constant
29 burden and should be of serious concern to those of us for whom

1 they have sacrificed so much; now, therefore, be it
2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
3 this legislative body express our appreciation for the American
4 troops who served in Afghanistan. We extend our utmost gratitude,
5 respect, and thankfulness for each one of them who willingly put
6 their lives on the line for our country by serving in Afghanistan
7 between 2001-2021.