

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

Call Item ##

SCR 3

5 By: Senator Laverty
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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO
10 INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION TO REVISE THE AGE
11 AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE
12 NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO
13 RECEIVE RETIREMENT PAY; AND TO INCREASE THE
14 AMOUNT OF NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREMENT
15 PAY TO MAKE IT ON PAR WITH ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF
16 OUR ARMED FORCES.

17
18 **Subtitle**

19 TO REVISE THE AGE AND SERVICE
20 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
21 GUARD AND RESERVES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO
22 RECEIVE RETIREMENT PAY AND TO INCREASE
23 THE AMOUNT OF RESERVE RETIREMENT PAY.
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26 WHEREAS, the volunteer citizen-soldiers of the National Guard and the
27 Reserves have been vital to the defense of the Nation for over 365 years; and
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29 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Reserve military forces have responded
30 to every major national security threat in the history of the United States,
31 from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, through World War I, World War
32 II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and most
33 recently Operation Iraqi Freedom, not to mention numerous peace keeping,
34 security, and reconstruction efforts all over the world; and
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36 WHEREAS, the 39th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade of the Arkansas



1 National Guard, nearly 3,100 soldiers, has been mobilized for up to eighteen
2 (18) months to join the 1st Cavalry Division in the Iraqi theatre as part of
3 the Army's force rotation plan; and
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5 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Selected Reserve have over 800,000
6 dedicated members; and
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8 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Reserves account for only a fraction of
9 the defense budget, but allow the Nation to almost double the size of the
10 Armed Forces, making them an essential part of a total force concept and they
11 are vital to the national security of the United States; and
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13 WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the
14 operational commitments of the United States Armed Forces, including the
15 National Guard and Reserves, have increased significantly; and
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17 WHEREAS, over 340,000 National Guard and Reserve members have been
18 called to active duty at (1) one time or another since September 11, 2001;
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20 WHEREAS, responding to the needs of their country has required
21 significant sacrifices on the part of the members of the National Guard and
22 Reserves, as well as their families and their employers; and
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24 WHEREAS, retirement pay for members of the National Guard and Reserves
25 completing twenty (20) "good" years of service is not paid until age sixty
26 (60), regardless of the number of years of service, or the age at which the
27 service is completed; and
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29 WHEREAS, the amount of retirement pay for members of the National Guard
30 and Reserves completing twenty (20) "good" years of service is determined not
31 only by the member's rank and years of service, but by the number of points
32 accumulated by the member during the member's years of service, which is not
33 on par with active duty members of the armed services,
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35 NOW THEREFORE,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

1 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

2
3 THAT the Arkansas Congressional Delegation is urged to introduce and
4 pass legislation to revise the age and service requirements for members of
5 the National Guard and Reserves to be eligible to receive retired pay, and to
6 increase the amount of National Guard and Reserve retirement pay to make it
7 on par with active duty members of our Armed Forces; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of this resolution the
10 Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy to each member of Arkansas'
11 Congressional Delegation and the presiding officer of the United States House
12 of Representatives and the United States Senate.