**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO REINSTATE THE FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE COMMENDATION PROGRAM.

Whereas, the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program was created in May 2005 by the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff to honor all U.S. Army veterans, and to provide current soldiers with the opportunity to recognize the spouses, parents, employers, and community members who support them; and

Whereas, since its inception, the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program has recognized, honored, and thanked over 2.3 million spouses, parents, employers, supporters, and veterans, thereby acknowledging their shared sacrifice and also helping to strengthen the essential bond between soldiers and this essential element of their support network; and

Whereas, in addition, the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program has served as an important vehicle for outreach, as a team of nearly one thousand Volunteer Ambassadors operating in all fifty states and several foreign countries developed mutually beneficial relationships with various veterans’ groups, military support organizations, and the broader civilian community; and

Whereas, unfortunately, due to the Army’s multiple competing missions and demands on resources, the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program was closed in February 2010; and

Whereas, in recognition of the program’s success and essential mission, especially during times of war, it is fitting and proper that we respectfully urge that the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program should be reinstated. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, urge the Secretary of the United States Army to reinstate the Freedom Team Salute Commendation Program, so that it continues its important mission to celebrate the essential bond between soldiers, veterans, family, and community; recognize the sacrifices made by all of those who support our soldiers; honor the veterans who have served and remain as our living connection to generations of honor, duty, and patriotism; and build and maintain a strong Army, especially during times of war.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of the United States Army.

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