

**SUBSTITUTE FOR**  
**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 183**

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, the U.S. forces in  
7 Afghanistan were reduced to 2,500 troops by January 2021, with a  
8 complete withdrawal planned for May 2021; and

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

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

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

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

29       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of

1 this legislative body express our appreciation for the American  
2 troops who served in Afghanistan. We extend our utmost gratitude,  
3 respect, and thankfulness for each one of them who willingly put  
4 their lives on the line for our country by serving in Afghanistan  
5 between 2001-2021.