



Legislative Bulletin.....May 6, 2004

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H.Res. 627—Deploring the abuse of persons in the United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the circumstances of their detention, urging the Secretary of the Army to bring to swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who has violated the Uniform Cod of Military Justice, expressing the deep appreciation of the Nation to the courageous and honorable members of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes

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Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, May 6th, subject to a unanimous consent agreement.

Summary: H.Res. 627 resolves that the House:

“(1) deplores and condemns the abuse of persons in United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the circumstances of their detention;

“(2) declares that the alleged crimes of a handful of individuals should not detract from the commendable sacrifices of over 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces who have served, or who are serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

“(3) reaffirms and reinforces the American principle that any and all individuals under the custody and care of the United States Armed Forces shall be afforded proper and humane treatment;

“(4) urges the Secretary of the Army to conduct a full and thorough investigation into any and all allegations of mistreatment or abuse of detainees in Iraq;

“(5) urges the Secretary of the Army and appropriate military authorities to undertake corrective action to address chain of command deficiencies and the systemic deficiencies identified in the incidents in question;

“(6) urges the Secretary of the Army to bring to swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who has violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice to ensure that their actions are not allowed to impugn the integrity of the United States Armed Forces or undermine the United State mission in Iraq;

“(7) reaffirms the need for Congress to be frequently updated on the status of efforts by the Department of Defense to address and resolve issues identified in this resolution;

“(8) expresses the deep appreciation of the Nation to the courageous and honorable members of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or who are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

“(9) expresses the support and thanks of the Nation to the families and friends of the soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who have served, or who are serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

“(10) expresses the continuing solidarity and support of the House of Representatives and the American people for the partnership of the United States with the Iraqi people in building a viable Iraqi government and a secure nation.”

Additional Background: Recently, photographs were made public showing evidence of detainee abuse by American forces at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. To date, charges have been brought against six individuals, three of whom have been recommended for court martial.

The resolution notes that “over 138,000 members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq, a total force comprised of active, National Guard, and Reserve personnel, are executing a courageous and determined mission to rebuild and rehabilitate a proud nation after liberating it from the tyranny, oppression, and genocide of Saddam Hussein’s evil regime.” In addition, it states that the Department of Defense has awarded members of the Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom at least 3,767 Purple Hearts, as well as thousands of commendations for valor, including at least 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 127 Silver Stars, and over 16,000 Bronze Stars.

Committee Action: The resolution was not considered by a committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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