

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 364

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Special Forces and honoring the “Father of the Special Forces”, Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired) of Mission Viejo, California, for his role in establishing the Army Special Forces.

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Whereas on June 22, 2002, the Special Forces Association will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first permanent special forces unit in the United States Army;

Whereas such unit was created in response to the advocacy of Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired), known as the “Father of the Special Forces”;

Whereas Colonel Aaron Bank's service in the Office of Strategic Services and his experience leading resistance fighters against Nazi Germany convinced him of the need for permanent, elite units in the Armed Forces that would specialize in small unit and counterinsurgency tactics, intelligence operations, and the training of indigenous soldiers;

Whereas in 1952 the Army created its first special forces unit, the 10th Special Forces Group, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which would later be known for the distinctive green berets worn by its soldiers;

Whereas Colonel Aaron Bank was assigned as the first commanding officer of the 10th Special Forces Group;

Whereas the success of the United States Army Special Forces encouraged the incorporation of principles of force multiplication into the military doctrine of the United States and paved the way for the revitalization of special operations forces in the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps;

Whereas these special operations forces have helped revolutionize the conduct of modern warfare;

Whereas special operations soldiers have served with bravery and distinction in every major military conflict in which the United States has been involved in the last 50 years and in innumerable covert operations;

Whereas special operations soldiers are sometimes called upon to conduct missions so secret that their bravery cannot be fully recognized;

Whereas special operations soldiers are playing a critical role in the war against terrorism; and

Whereas thanks to Colonel Aaron Bank and the thousands of United States Army Special Forces soldiers who have followed him, the Armed Forces are better prepared to conduct unconventional warfare and to protect the United States from developing threats: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
4 50th anniversary of the founding of the United
5 States Army Special Forces;

6 (2) honors the “Father of the Special Forces”,
7 Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired)
8 of Mission Viejo, California, for his role in estab-
9 lishing the United States Army Special Forces;

10 (3) recognizes the sacrifices and accomplish-
11 ments of United States Army Special Forces soldiers
12 and of all other special operations soldiers in the
13 Armed Forces;

14 (4) expresses deep gratitude for the continuing
15 sacrifices of United States Army Special Forces sol-
16 diers and of all other special operations soldiers in
17 the Armed Forces now fighting throughout the
18 world in defense of the freedoms challenged by the
19 heinous events of September 11, 2001; and

20 (5) honors the sacrifices made by United States
21 Army Special Forces soldiers who have trained hard

1 and acquitted themselves with honor by serving val-
2 iantly in battle, with many making the ultimate sac-
3 rifice to their country, many times in missions so se-
4 cret that their valor may never be fully acknowl-
5 edged.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2002.

Attest:

Clerk.