

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 364

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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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2002

Mr. COX submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## 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.

Whereas June 20, 2002, is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first permanent special operations force of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the first such special operations force 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 the first permanent special operations force, the 10th Special Forces Group, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the soldiers of which were known for their distinctive green berets;

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

Whereas the success of the Army Special Forces encouraged the creation of permanent 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 special operations soldiers who have followed him, the Armed Forces are better prepared to conduct unconven-

tional 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 Army Special Forces;

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

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

20          (5) honors the sacrifices made by the special  
21        operations soldiers of the Armed Forces who have  
22        trained hard, served valiantly in battle, and made  
23        the ultimate sacrifice to their country, many times

1 in missions so secret that their valor may never be  
2 fully acknowledged.

