

By Senator Clary

7-1780-99

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing America's military retirees who served in World War II and the Korean War and recognizing the government's responsibilities with respect to the lifetime healthcare needs of these retirees.

WHEREAS, World War II and Korean War military retirees who served honorably for 20 or more years constitute a significant part of the aging population in the United States as a whole and in Florida in particular, and

WHEREAS, guaranteed lifetime health care for themselves and their families was a major inducement for these retirees to make the United States Armed Forces a career, and

WHEREAS, many of these retirees do not have access to military treatment facilities for health care and life-maintenance medications because they live in areas where there are no military treatment facilities or where such facilities have downsized so significantly that available space for care has become nonexistent, and

WHEREAS, before reaching the age of 65, these retirees are provided health services at Military Medical Facilities or through the United States Department of Defense's TRICARE programs, but when these retirees reach the age of 65, they lose a significant portion of the guaranteed health care by being forced into Medicare, and

WHEREAS, the loss of access to health care provided by the Department of Defense has resulted in the government's breaking its guarantee of lifetime health care, and

WHEREAS, without continued affordable health care, including medication, these retirees have limited access to

1 quality health care, and have significantly less care than
2 other retired federal employees, such as the Federal Employees
3 Health Benefits Program, and

4 WHEREAS, one thousand of the men and women who
5 faithfully served their country are dying each day with the
6 knowledge that their Federal Government will not honor the
7 guarantee of medical care, and

8 WHEREAS, it is necessary to restore equitable
9 healthcare benefits to such military retirees comparable to
10 the benefits of other retired federal workers, NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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14 That the Florida Senate recognizes the weekend of June
15 5 and June 6, 1999, as World War II and Korean War Remembrance
16 Weekend so that the people of Florida may acknowledge the
17 sacrifices made by the military retirees who served in those
18 wars and defended the freedom enjoyed by the people of Florida
19 and all Americans.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate
21 recognizes the government's responsibilities with respect to
22 the lifetime healthcare needs of these retirees.

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