

By Senator Dockery

15-1388-04

1 Senate Memorial No. ____

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United
3 States, urging Congress to give first priority
4 to supporting and passing the Defense
5 Appropriations Bill.

6

7 WHEREAS, the security of our nation and people is the
8 first and foremost obligation of the United States Federal
9 Government, and

10 WHEREAS, the men and women of our United States Armed
11 Forces now serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps,
12 Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, National Guard, and Reserves
13 have shown great courage and self-sacrifice and deserve to be
14 equipped with the best weapons and resources to protect our
15 nation, and

16 WHEREAS, in past years politicians have delayed passing
17 the Defense Appropriations Bill until late in the budget year
18 so that the Defense Appropriations Bill was misused as a
19 dumping ground for pork-barrel spending and as a political
20 hostage to pork-barrel spending in other appropriations bills,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of
23 September 11, 2001, on America, President Bush asked that the
24 Congress of the United States pass that year's Defense
25 Appropriations Bill before passing other spending bills, and

26 WHEREAS, Congress acted responsibly in the Spring of
27 2002 when it passed the Defense Appropriations Bill first,
28 thereby protecting the men and women in our armed forces from
29 becoming pawns for politicians' spending maneuvers, NOW,
30 THEREFORE,

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1 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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3 That the Congress of the United States is commended for
4 making our nation's defense its first priority in 2002, and is
5 requested to continue this important tradition by passing and
6 enacting the Defense Appropriations Legislation before all
7 other spending bills in 2004 and in future years.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
10 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
11 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
12 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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