

By Senator Latvala

20-02466-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing August 16, 2013, as "Airborne Forces Heritage Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, in the defense of national security, freedom, and peace, provide support to ground combat troops through air transport to the far reaches of the battleground and to the four corners of the world, and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1940, the Army Parachute Test Platoon was authorized by the United States Department of War and, the following month, launched training with 48 volunteers, and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 1940, the Army Parachute Test Platoon performed the first official United States Army parachute jump, proving the effectiveness of the innovative concept of inserting ground combat forces behind the battle line, and

WHEREAS, the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon, which validated the airborne operational concept, led to the creation of a formidable force of airborne warriors, including the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions, and

WHEREAS, these airborne forces served with distinction and achieved repeated success during World War II and the armed conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Granada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, and Somalia, and have engaged in peace-keeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo and training operations in the Philippines and Africa, and

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30 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001,
31 terrorist attacks, numerous divisions, brigades, regiments, and
32 special operations teams have demonstrated bravery and honor in
33 combat, providing stability in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

34 WHEREAS, members of the United States airborne forces have
35 achieved distinction by earning the right to wear the Airborne
36 Silver Wings of Courage, with 71 earning the Congressional Medal
37 of Honor and hundreds more receiving the Distinguished Service
38 Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and other recognitions
39 and awards for heroism and honor, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

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

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43 That we recognize August 16, 2013, as "Airborne Forces
44 Heritage Day" in Florida.