

## Senate Resolution 73

By: Senator Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Mr. John F. Gwizdak; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. John F. Gwizdak of Stockbridge, Georgia, was elected  
3 Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at the  
4 organization's 101st National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gwizdak was born in Revloc, Pennsylvania, grew up in Carrolltown, and  
6 enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in 1968, he attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second  
8 lieutenant; and
- 9 WHEREAS, his service career included three tours in Germany, including a rotational tour  
10 in Berlin and in Vietnam with Company E, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry  
11 Brigade; and
- 12 WHEREAS, starting out as a heavy mortar platoon leader, he eventually assumed command  
13 of Company E based at Long Binh. He held the distinction of having served in all leadership  
14 positions from squad leader to company commander of an infantry company; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Gwizdak retired from the U.S. Army in 1978 with the rank of captain and  
16 he was inducted into the United States Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame; and
- 17 WHEREAS, his military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Meritorious  
18 Service Medal; four Bronze Star Medals (including one for valor); the Purple Heart; Vietnam  
19 Cross of Gallantry with palm device; three Army Commendation Medals; Army of  
20 Occupation Medal (Berlin); Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals; three Good Conduct  
21 Medals; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Combat  
22 Infantryman's Badge; Parachutist Badge; and Drill Sergeant's Badge; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Mr. Gwizdak joined the VFW in 1977 and established a distinguished record  
24 of service at the post, district, and department levels. In 1988, he attained the status of  
25 All-American Department Commander, VFW Department of Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, recognized as a leader in veterans affairs, Mr. Gwizdak received numerous  
2 appointments to national VFW positions and was elected to the VFW National Council of  
3 Administration in 1990, representing the Departments of Georgia and Alabama; and

4 WHEREAS, he is the owner and president of John F. Gwizdak, Inc., specializing in  
5 residential and commercial construction and sales and is the owner and a real estate broker  
6 of Builders Realty; and

7 WHEREAS, his wife, Betty, is a past department president and a past national council  
8 member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and they are the proud parents of five children, seven  
9 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Gwizdak has brought great honor and recognition to the State of Georgia  
11 as a result of being elected to this prestigious office.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
13 commend Mr. John F. Gwizdak on his distinguished military career and many outstanding  
14 accomplishments and especially for being elected as the Commander-in-Chief of the  
15 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. John F. Gwizdak.