

House Resolution 1425

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Yates of the 73rd, Porter of the 143rd, Reece of the 27th, Cole of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the United Services Organization on its 65th anniversary; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United Services Organization (USO), founded in 1941, is a private,
4 nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization representing every hometown community
5 throughout the State of Georgia and the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the USO provides unparalleled support and services to the men, women, and
7 families of our country's military; and

8 WHEREAS, for 65 years through major wars and combat and times of uneasy peace, the
9 USO volunteers, staff, and board members have provided countless hours of entertainment
10 and recreation, meals, care packages, and safe havens at USO centers as an unforgettable
11 touch of home for those who are serving our country with valor, often far from their own
12 hometowns; and

13 WHEREAS, the USO is every hometown in Georgia, supporting our troops, who are our
14 neighbors, teachers, firemen, and other valuable members of our community; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia has one of the largest military deployments in the nation making the
16 USO particularly important to this state; and

17 WHEREAS, USO volunteers provide services and programs from Atlanta to Savannah and
18 points in between to all branches of the Armed Forces, ensuring that in the past three years
19 alone more than one million military personnel have received some type of USO service,
20 either through Welcome Home ceremonies, USO shows, Deployments, Operation USO Care
21 Packages, Operation R & R, Operation Exodus, or food and refreshments at USO operations
22 in Atlanta, Savannah, Warner Robins, and Columbus; and

1 WHEREAS, thousands of military personnel and their families have been treated to shows,
2 sporting events, and festivals through USO's ticket distribution program, and hundreds of
3 military families have received groceries, toiletries and needed items through USO's
4 partnership with Family Readiness Groups across this state; and

5 WHEREAS, the USO joyfully distributed more than \$5,000.00 worth of new toys this past
6 holiday season to military children; and

7 WHEREAS, during the first and second deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort
8 Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, USO volunteers worked zealously around the clock to
9 send off every soldier with the support of a smile, a care package, a drink, and a snack, and
10 were there again around the clock to greet and offer support to every returning soldier; and

11 WHEREAS, the USO gave the members of Georgia's 48th Brigade an inspirational sendoff
12 with a family festival and show last May and the USO will be a part of the official welcome
13 home celebration of the 3rd Infantry Division in March and the 48th Brigade's return as well;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, during cold nights, rainy days, and hot sunny afternoons, the USO did not miss
16 one deploying or homecoming plane and were there with heartfelt sentiments of "Godspeed"
17 or "Welcome home, thank you"; and

18 WHEREAS, under the stewardship of the USO Council of Georgia, led by Chairman
19 Michael A. Watson, Executive Director Mary Lou Austin, and 49 members across the state,
20 the USO is the premiere agency ensuring that our troops are not forgotten; and

21 WHEREAS, when hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast and our wonderful,
22 brave military personnel were called to respond, it was USO Georgia that was tasked to lead
23 and help staff a USO joint task force by USO World Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and

24 WHEREAS, for five months, USO Georgia staff and volunteers from Georgia were on duty
25 serving our military in the Gulf Coast region, while USO Georgia still continued its mission
26 and services throughout the state; and

27 WHEREAS, USO Georgia is truly at the forefront of support to those who are serving, no
28 matter where they serve and no matter under what conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, serving the Navy and Marines at the Atlanta Naval Air Station, the Air Force
2 in Middle Georgia, the Coast Guard in Savannah, or our many soldiers stationed throughout
3 the world, the USO truly puts the tangible "support" in "We support our troops" and lets the
4 brave and courageous men and women of Georgia know that they are not forgotten.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
6 GEORGIA that the members of this body commend the USO on its 65th anniversary and
7 offer their heartfelt gratitude for their service to America and the State of Georgia.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the USO Council of
10 Georgia.