

House Resolution 845

By: Representatives Carter of the 159th, Yates of the 73rd, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Holt of the 112th, and Cheokas of the 134th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces and designating August
2 16, 2007, as "Airborne Heritage Day"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces have a long and
4 honorable history as units of adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, for the national
5 security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, carry the effective
6 ground combat power of the United States by Air Force air transport to the far reaches of
7 battle areas around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army
9 Parachute Test Platoon, which officially validated the concept of inserting United States
10 ground combat forces behind battle lines by means of a parachute; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States' experiment with airborne infantry attack began on June 25,
12 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the United States
13 Department of War, and was launched when 48 volunteers began training in July of 1940;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the success of the Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately preceding the
16 entry of the United States into World War II led to the formation of a formidable force of
17 airborne units that, since then, have served with distinction and repeated success in armed
18 hostilities; and

19 WHEREAS, the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II provided a basis
20 for evolution into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that over the years
21 have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Granada, Panama, the Persian Gulf Region, and Somalia and
22 that have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the
23 Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo; and

1 WHEREAS, the members of the United States combat airborne forces, both past and present,
2 have earned many awards, such as the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the
3 Silver Star, the airborne's Silver Wings of Courage, and other awards, for displays of heroism
4 and valor; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Senate has recognized the significant contributions of the
6 airborne community and the many sacrifices of the nation's paratroopers and (in former days)
7 glider troops through resolutions proclaiming August 16 as National Airborne Day from
8 1999 through 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, the history and achievements of the members and former members of the
10 airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces warrant the warmest gratitude of the
11 American people.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body do hereby commend the airborne forces of the United States
14 Armed Forces for their heroic efforts on behalf of the American people.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in tribute to the history and achievements of the
16 airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces, August 16, 2007, is hereby designated
17 as "Airborne Heritage Day."