

Senate Resolution 1004

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st and Douglas of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Third Infantry Division of the United States Army on the
2 occasion of its 90th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Third Infantry Division of the United States Army has one of the most
4 successful combat records of any United States Army division, but it has paid a high price
5 for this distinction, suffering nearly 35,000 wartime casualties; and

6 WHEREAS, Fifty-one members of the Third Infantry Division have been awarded the
7 Congressional Medal of Honor while serving our nation; and

8 WHEREAS, the Third Infantry Division is celebrating its 90th anniversary; and

9 WHEREAS, the Third Infantry Division was deployed in World War I, 1914-1918, fighting
10 against Imperial Germany where its soldiers took the brunt of what was to be the last German
11 offensive of the war by holding their positions at the Marne River, defeating the German bid
12 for Paris, and thereby earning the nickname, "Rock of the Marne"; and

13 WHEREAS, the Division again fought in World War II, 1941-1945, the only division to fight
14 Germany on all fronts, ending with 531 days of combat; and

15 WHEREAS, from 1950-1953 the Third Infantry Division was deployed to fight in the
16 Korean War and it was here that they conducted the most massive beachhead evacuation in
17 American military history, consisting of 105,000 troops, 100,000 refugees, 17,500 vehicles,
18 and 750,000 tons of cargo; and

19 WHEREAS, from 1947-1991 these men and women were instrumental in the Cold War,
20 stationed in Germany as part of the main defense protecting Western Europe from the threat
21 of attack by Warsaw Pact Nations headed by the Soviet Union; and

1 WHEREAS, they were instrumental in the Persian Gulf War, 1991, where they were
2 responsible for destroying 105 enemy tanks, 70 enemy armored personnel carriers, 92 enemy
3 trucks, and 4 enemy artillery pieces and capturing 836 prisoners; and

4 WHEREAS, since 2003, the Third Infantry Division has been serving in Operation Iraqi
5 Freedom, where on April 5th, they stunned the world with television images of tanks and
6 Bradley Fighting Vehicles storming the streets of Baghdad in a probing action known as the
7 first of two "Thunder Runs"; and

8 WHEREAS, the Division returned to Fort Stewart in August, 2003, and in 2005 returned to
9 Iraq and led the United States coalition forces in Baghdad; and

10 WHEREAS, this division served with its coalition partners during Operation Iraqi Freedom
11 III for a year before returning to Georgia in January, 2006; and

12 WHEREAS, the only member of the Third Infantry Division to receive a Congressional
13 Medal of Honor while fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom was Sergeant First Class Paul R.
14 Smith for distinguishing himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the
15 call of duty in action with an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad,
16 Iraq, on April 4, 2003, where he was mortally wounded.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
18 do hereby recognize and commend the Third Infantry Division on the occasion of its 90th
19 anniversary and Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith for giving his life in defense of his
20 country.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is hereby authorized and
22 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Third Infantry Division.