

Senate Resolution 1024

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the valiant service of the Special Forces soldiers who were sent
2 to Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of September 11; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a 12 man team of Special Forces soldiers from Fort Campbell belonging to
4 Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 594 and ODA 595 were sent to Afghanistan
5 immediately following the attacks on September 11, 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, these valiant soldiers, known as the Green Berets, were given a two-part
7 mission: to work together with the Afghan Northern Alliance to hunt down those behind the
8 September 11 attacks and to destroy the Taliban regime; and

9 WHEREAS, Senior Chief Warrant Officer Robert Pennington served on the team led by
10 Mark Nutsch that is depicted in the film "12 Strong" which highlights the bravery,
11 brotherhood, and faith of these down-to-earth men; and

12 WHEREAS, in "12 Strong," the audience will see all the elements of the Green Berets that
13 Robert Pennington loves so much: the brotherhood, the teaching, the bravery, and the faith
14 to stand in the face of evil and liberate the oppressed; and

15 WHEREAS, Special Forces soldiers are men of unassuming greatness, the only servicemen
16 to train in unconventional warfare, who train, laugh, eat, and cry with indigenous forces
17 for three to five months or even three to five years, while they build up to prepare for a fight
18 and assist in war; and

19 WHEREAS, in Afghanistan, they were faced with unconventional warfare and with
20 enormous operational challenges such as the necessity to rapidly adapt twenty-first century
21 combat technologies and tactics into age-old Central Asian models of guerilla and tribal
22 warfare, as well as a lack of body armor and transportation; and

23 WHEREAS, against an onslaught of Taliban forces, the soldiers used whatever means
24 possible to defeat the enemy, including riding horses provided by the Afghan Northern
25 Alliance, to aid them in navigating the Central Asian terrain, leading to their being dubbed
26 "Horse Soldiers"; and

27 WHEREAS, with this appropriate means of transportation in their possession, the Horse
28 Soldiers successfully achieved, in weeks, what was originally speculated to take months or
29 even years; and

30 WHEREAS, the Horse Soldiers ultimately defeated the Taliban and pushed the surviving
31 members of Al-Qaeda into the mountains of Pakistan; and

32 WHEREAS, the Horse Soldiers brought along several pieces of steel that they had recovered
33 from the rubble of the World Trade Center, and in honor of the lives that were cut short by
34 the attacks on 9/11, they buried the pieces, along with properly folded American flags, at
35 each location that they had completed a mission; and

36 WHEREAS, these burial ceremonies conducted by the Horse Soldiers would forever bond
37 them to the New York City First Responders; and

38 WHEREAS, "12 Strong" is a movie adaptation of the true stories of these soldiers and serves
39 to honor the valor with which they served the United States of America at a time of
40 immeasurable fear and grief.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize and honor the valiant service of the Special Forces soldiers who were sent to
43 Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of September 11.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
46 press.