

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NELSON, Costello, Saddler

Introduced: 4/22/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging the United States Congress to designate 2025 as the Year of the Soldier.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the United States Army, the first and oldest branch of the armed forces of
4 the United States, has played a defining role in the development and defense of the nation and
5 has shaped history as one of the foremost land warfare service branches around the world for
6 250 years; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Army is older than the nation it serves, tracing its roots
8 to June 14, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution calling for the
9 formation of 10 companies of expert riflemen to support the fight for independence; and

10 **WHEREAS** the establishment of the Continental Army predated the signing of the
11 Declaration of Independence by more than a year, and its rapid growth and development
12 proved essential to the security and integrity of the early United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1791, the ongoing global conflicts and upheaval on the western
14 frontier led to the reorganization of a standing ground force, the Legion of the United States,
15 which, in 1796, was renamed the United States Army; and

16 **WHEREAS**, during the War of 1812, when many militia units struggled to repulse

1 British forces, the United States Army demonstrated its effectiveness through victories at the
2 Battle of Plattsburgh and the Battle of Baltimore; and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States Army's victory in the Mexican-American War was a
4 defining moment for the nation and resulted in the acquisition of a large swath of territory that
5 would eventually become several western states, reinforcing the nation's reach to the Pacific
6 Ocean; and

7 **WHEREAS**, during the Civil War, the United States Army, often referred to as the
8 Union Army, was strengthened by volunteers, and, after the Emancipation Proclamation in
9 1863, more than 180,000 Black men served in the army, playing a crucial role in securing
10 victory; and

11 **WHEREAS** the successes of the United States Army during the Spanish-American
12 War and the Philippine-American War in the 1890s solidified the emergence of the United
13 States as a global power; and

14 **WHEREAS**, during World War I, the American Expeditionary Forces, composed
15 largely of United States Army units, helped shift the tide of war and developed battlefield
16 experience that would prove critical in later conflicts; and

17 **WHEREAS**, during World War II, the United States Army deployed globally,
18 including in the Pacific Theater, where soldiers played a pivotal role in defending the state
19 during the Aleutian Islands campaign, repelling Japanese forces from American soil in one of
20 the only battles fought on United States territory during the war; and

21 **WHEREAS** the United States Army helped maintain global stability throughout the
22 Cold War, including major combat actions in Korea and Vietnam, and stood watch against
23 Soviet aggression; and

24 **WHEREAS**, after the Cold War, the United States Army showcased its strength in
25 Operation Desert Storm and participated in numerous peacekeeping missions around the
26 world; and

27 **WHEREAS**, following the attacks of September 11, 2001, members of the United
28 States Army, including soldiers from units stationed at Fort Wainwright and Joint Base
29 Elmendorf-Richardson, were among the first deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq during the
30 Global War on Terrorism; and

31 **WHEREAS** the presence of the United States Army in the state remains vital to

1 national security and Arctic readiness, with soldiers training in some of the world's most
2 extreme environments and serving as a strategic force in the Indo-Pacific region; and

3 **WHEREAS**, for 250 years, the United States Army has stood as a guardian of the
4 American way of life, guided by its enduring motto "This We'll Defend"; and

5 **WHEREAS** the United States Army's iconic slogan "Be All You Can Be" continues
6 to inspire generations of Americans to rise to their full potential and serve with honor; and

7 **WHEREAS**, from the Revolutionary War to the present, active duty soldiers and
8 veterans of the United States Army have demonstrated resilience, courage, and leadership and
9 have contributed not only to the military, but to communities and institutions across the
10 United States, including this state, where many veterans continue to lead in government,
11 business, and civic life; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state is proud to host significant United States Army installations,
13 including Fort Wainwright, home to the 11th Airborne Division, and Joint Base Elmendorf-
14 Richardson, which supports joint operations and Arctic military readiness, both serving as
15 major contributors to the state's economy and community fabric; and

16 **WHEREAS**, on June 14, 2025, the United States Army will kick off its 250th
17 anniversary;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States
19 Congress to designate the year 2025 as the Year of the Soldier in celebration of the 250th
20 anniversary of the United States Army.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
22 of the United States; the Honorable JD Vance, Vice President of the United States and
23 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of
24 Representatives; the Honorable Chuck Grassley, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the
25 Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa
26 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas
27 Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.