

RESOLUTION NO. 1677

BILL NO. 26-0012

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Regular Session

2005

To honor and commend the members of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard and all Virgin Islanders who have served in the Armed Forces.

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WHEREAS, the seven hundred fifty volunteer, citizen soldiers of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard have been a vital part of the defense of the United States of America for the last thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Virgin Islanders in the United States Armed Forces have served and fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard has served and fought in all major military conflicts and has provided assistance in disaster relief efforts since its inception in 1973; and

WHEREAS, the Army and Air National Guard units nationwide account for only a fraction of the defense budget, but their participation in conflicts almost double the size of the United States Armed Forces, making them an essential and vital component in the protection of national security of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the combat commitment of the United States Armed Forces, including the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard has increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, two hundred five Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard soldiers have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard has a pivotal role in providing homeland security for the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard's participation in combating the threat of international terrorism is commendable; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard has played a critical role in "Operation Noble Eagle", "Operation Enduring Freedom", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", the global war on terrorism and in participating in the ongoing security and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the current mobilization represents the largest call-up of Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard members since its first call to duty in November 1974 when Governor Melvin Evans activated the 661st Military Police unit when torrential rain caused extensive flooding; and

WHEREAS, continuing security challenges abroad are requiring many Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard units to remain on active duty beyond the original one-year limit set by the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, Virgin Islands soldiers have served as ambassadors on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands throughout the world in time of peace and war; and

WHEREAS, responding to the needs of their country has required significant sacrifices by the soldiers of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard, their families, and employers; and

WHEREAS, the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage are rightly attributed to our soldiers; and

WHEREAS, the families of our soldiers need to be commended for the sacrifices they have made, and for the dedication they have shown their wives, husbands, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard for its dedication and sacrifice during the current critical time in the Nation's history;

SECTION 2. The Legislature, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, recognizes the sacrifices being made by the families of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard soldiers called to active duty;

SECTION 3. The Legislature, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, appreciates the commitment and support of employers of activated Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard soldiers; and

SECTION 4. The Legislature, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, pledges its continued support for the members of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard.

SECTION 5. The President or the President's designee shall present a perma plaque copy of this Resolution to the Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on February 11, 2005.

Witness our Hands and the Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this _____ Day of February, A.D., 2005.

Lorraine L. Berry
President

Liston A. Davis
Legislative Secretary