

## House Resolution 9EX

By: Representatives Belton of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the 13 members of the United States Armed Forces who died during the  
2 evacuation of the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, by militant terrorists of  
4 al-Qaeda, a branch of the Taliban that ruled the country of Afghanistan; and

5 WHEREAS, these Islamic fundamentalist terrorists hijacked four main-line airliner airplanes  
6 and then flew three of these airplanes into the Twin Towers in New York City and the  
7 Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, on the fourth airplane, a brave group of civilians sacrificed their lives by  
9 fighting these terrorists, forcing United Flight 93 to crash into a field near Shanksville,  
10 Pennsylvania; and

11 WHEREAS, in total, 2,958 Americans were killed and over 6,000 more were wounded on  
12 September 11, a calamity that is even larger than the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

13 WHEREAS, President George Washington in his 1793 State of the Union Address instituted  
14 America's policy of "Peace through Strength"; and

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15 WHEREAS, in spiritual support of President Washington's policy, President Ronald Reagan  
16 stated, "Peace does not exist of its own free will. It depends on us, on our courage to build  
17 it and guard it and pass it on to future generations."; and

18 WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, one of the deadliest days in the 20 year war in Afghanistan,  
19 Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas; Sergeant Nicole Gee, 23, of  
20 Roseville, California; Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah; Staff  
21 Sergeant Ryan Knauss, 23, of Knoxville, Tennessee; Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum, 20,  
22 of Bondurant, Wyoming; Corporal Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California; Lance Corporal  
23 Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California; Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui,  
24 20, of Norco, California; Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence,  
25 Massachussetts; Corporal Humberto Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Indiana; Corporal Daegan  
26 William-Tyeler Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska; Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz, 20, of St.  
27 Charles, Missouri; and Seaman Maxton "Max" Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio, gave the  
28 last full measure of devotion in order to safeguard the lives of American civilians in a hostile  
29 country.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body mourn and commend these 13 young members of the United States  
32 Armed Forces who gave up their lives to ensure that this nation of the people, by the people,  
33 and for the people would not perish from the face of the earth.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 public and the press.