

Senate Resolution 1124

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) 595 were sent to Afghanistan immediately following
5 the attacks on September 11, 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, the 12 men were: MAJ (Former) Mark Nutsch; CW4(R) Robert Pennington;
7 MSG(R) Paul Evans; MSG(R) Andy Marchal; SFC(R) Steve Kofron; SGM(R) Mike Elmore;
8 MSG(R) Chad J.; MSG Pete W.; SFC(R) Bill Bennett (KIA, Iraq-2003); MSG(R) Steve B.;
9 SGM(R) Vincent Makela; and SFC(R) William Summers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, with this suitable means of transportation in their possession, the Horse Soldiers
32 successfully achieved, in weeks, what was originally speculated to take months or even
33 years; and

34 WHEREAS, the Horse Soldiers (ODA 595), assisting their Northern Alliance counterparts,
35 liberated more than 50 villages, towns, and cities in six Northern Provinces; destroyed more
36 than 200 bunkers, vehicles, tanks, and artillery pieces; and killed or captured more than 5,000
37 Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters; and

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

40 WHEREAS, following their campaign in Afghanistan, ODA 595 so inspired equestrian
41 sculptor, Douwe Blumberg, that he created a statue depicting the Horse Soldiers and the
42 actions of Task Force Dagger during those early days of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

43 WHEREAS, a 16-foot bronze Horse Soldier statue, known as America's Response
44 Monument, now rests at Liberty Park on the south side of Ground Zero, where it will forever
45 bond the Horse Soldiers to New York City First Responders; and

46 WHEREAS, *12 Strong* is a movie adaptation of the true stories of these soldiers, and *Legion*
47 *of Brothers*, a documentary that tells the history of ODA 595 and other Special Forces
48 soldiers, serves to honor the valor with which they served the United States of America at
49 a time of immeasurable fear and grief.

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

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