

House Resolution No. 831

Whereas, the Missouri House of Representatives takes great pride in saluting the members of the Missouri Army National Guard 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion located in Joplin, Neosho, Springfield, Anderson, Clinton, St. Peters, Carthage, Monett, Pierce City, and Fort Leonard Wood, who have been mobilized to support Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas, the 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion can trace its history back to Missouri volunteer militia units that formed in 1883, while the militia units in southwest Missouri were reorganized into the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the National Guard of Missouri in 1890 and mustered into federal service during the Spanish-American War; and

Whereas, the 2nd Missouri Infantry was called up to serve during the Mexican border dispute in 1916; redesignated as 128th, 129th, and 130th machine gun battalions in 1917; transformed into the 203rd Artillery, Coast Artillery Corps in 1921; inducted into federal service in September of 1940; and was later sent to Alaska for the Aleutian Campaign; and

Whereas, in 1963, the unit was redesignated 1st Battalion, 203rd Armor, and became an engineer battalion following reorganization in 1968, since which time it has remained an engineer battalion; and

Whereas, the organization of the 203rd Engineer Battalion consists of Headquarters Support Company (HSC) in Joplin with Detachment 1 in Neosho, which is overseen by HSC commander Captain Jerry McDaniel and 1st Sergeant Richard Lindley; and

Whereas, Company A, 203rd, is headquartered in Springfield with Detachment 1 in Anderson and Detachment 2 in Clinton, and is commanded by Captain Lance Pearce with the leadership of 1st Sergeant Edwin Arner; and

Whereas, in a time of uncertainty, it is comforting to know that there are dedicated individuals such as the members of Detachment 1 HSC203 in Neosho and Detachment 1 Company A in Anderson who will fight for the rights and freedom of all Americans through their selfless acts of courage and their firm belief in liberty and justice for all:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in expressing our utmost appreciation to the members and leaders of Missouri National Guard 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion Detachment 1 in Neosho and Detachment 1 Company A in Anderson as they depart the great state of Missouri and embark upon an unknown journey in which they will strive to make the world a better and safer place for all mankind; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the members of the Missouri National Guard 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion Detachment 1 in Neosho and Detachment 1 Company A in Anderson, Missouri.

Offered by _____
 Representative Kevin Wilson
 District No. 130

 Representative Marilyn Ruestman
 District No. 131

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 831, adopted March 13, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker