

REFERENCE TITLE: **honoring Bushmasters**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

HR 2006

Introduced by
Representative Fernandez: Senator Alston

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S 1ST BATTALION, 158TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
BUSHMASTERS UNIT OF THE ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, during World War II, the 158th Infantry Regiment of the
2 Arizona Army National Guard was sent to Panama for jungle training and
3 protection of the Panama Canal Zone. The regiment adopted the name
4 "Bushmasters" after the venomous pit vipers found in South America; and

5 Whereas, each combat soldier in the Bushmasters received extensive
6 training in jungle warfare, knife fighting and unarmed hand-to-hand combat
7 techniques; and

8 Whereas, the Bushmasters became famous for their remarkable combat
9 skills, and General Douglas MacArthur personally requested that the unit
10 be sent to his command in the Southwest Pacific Theater. He later said of
11 the Bushmasters that "no greater fighting combat team has ever deployed
12 for battle"; and

13 Whereas, the first Army unit to be sent overseas after Pearl Harbor,
14 the Bushmasters survived a 100-plane raid from the Japanese Air Force at
15 Port Moresby; and

16 Whereas, when they were deactivated in 1946, the Bushmasters had
17 served continuously in a combat zone longer than any other National Guard
18 unit in history, which is a record that still stands; and

19 Whereas, reactivated in 1948, the Bushmasters were reorganized and
20 redesignated several times. In 1967, the last remnants of the 158th
21 Infantry were disbanded and their colors retired; and

22 Whereas, in 2005, the 1st Battalion, 180th Artillery was deactivated
23 and redesignated the 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, and the
24 Bushmasters were again reborn; and

25 Whereas, in 2007, the Bushmasters were mobilized and deployed to
26 Afghanistan. During this deployment, two Bushmasters were killed and
27 others wounded in combat operations; and

28 Whereas, since the battalion returned in 2008, contingents of
29 Bushmasters have continued to deploy to Afghanistan; and

30 Whereas, the valor, tenacity and fighting spirit of the Bushmasters
31 continue to strengthen this state and nation, and they are deserving of
32 recognition for their brave efforts in preserving our democracy.

33 Therefore

34 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

35 That the Members of the House of Representatives honor the
36 Bushmasters unit of the Arizona Army National Guard for their dedication,
37 bravery and skill and express sincere gratitude for their continued
38 sacrifices.