

HOUSE RESOLUTION 92

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colonel Lawrence W. Meder on the occasion of his retirement from this nation's military.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those courageous citizens who have promoted democracy and protected our society through their service in the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lawrence W. Meder of the United States Army Reserve is one such estimable person who has selflessly devoted his entire career to this nation's military and who will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder serves as the Chief of Staff, 364th Sustainment Command located in Marysville, Washington; the 364th returned from Kuwait where they supported Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn and the largest logistical drawdown in the history of the U.S. Army. The 364th played a key role in the success of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces II from Iraq in 57 days; and

WHEREAS, prior to deployment, Col. Meder commanded the 647th Regional Support Group in El Paso, Texas, which was comprised of three Battalions, thirteen units, and 1,272 Soldiers spread across Texas and New Mexico ; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder received his officer training through the Reserve Officer Training Corps and his commission in 1983 on Pope Field, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; after attending his Officer Basic course in Chemical, he served as a Platoon Leader with the 45 Chemical Company, Fort Polk, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he next served as an Infantry Company Executive Officer and then as the 5th Aviation Brigade Chemical Officer; following the Chemical Officer Advanced Course, he served as the Subject Matter Expert and Instructor for Chemical at the U.S. Army Ordnance

School, followed by assignment as Commander, HQs Company, Chemical, Research, Development and Engineering Center; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, Col. Meder served as the Personnel Officer of the 490th Chemical Battalion and later as a Trainer/Total Force Integrator at the U.S. Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; he then served in a variety of assignments, including as the Regimental S-3 of the 2135th, the Chemical Career Management Officer AR-PERSCOM, the 640th Group Operations Officer, and the Chief of the Combat Support Division, AR-PERSCOM; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Col. Meder commanded the 476th Chemical Battalion in Seattle, Washington, which was comprised of fourteen units, including Chemical, Engineer, and Transportation; he then served as the Director of the Army Reserve Senior Leader Development Office, which was charged by the Chief Army Reserve to build the bench of future Army Reserve leaders; and

WHEREAS, prior to Group Command, Col. Meder served as the U.S. Army Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear School's Deputy Assistant Commandant at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder holds Chemical, Human Resources, and Foreign Area Officer branch or functional area designations; he is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Senior Service College Fellowship program, where he was an International Security Studies Fellow at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder has attended the Canadian Security Studies Program and the Department of Defense Senior Managers Course in National Security; he holds a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2nd Award and "M" device, the National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Overseas Ribbon, the Combat Service Identification Badge, the Army

Staff Identification Badge, and the German Armed Forces Efficiency Badge and he is a recipient of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps' Order of the Dragon; and

WHEREAS, Col. Meder is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, the former Iris Kiesewetter of Altenstadt, Germany, and their five children; and

WHEREAS, Col. and Mrs. Meder are looking forward to enjoying retirement on their family farm in Orlinda, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Meder exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Col. Meder has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his superior officers and colleagues, the soldiers under his command, and a grateful public as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Colonel Lawrence W. Meder our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors and thank him for his thirty years of patriotic service to his country as an officer and gentleman in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.