

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
3 OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL ERIK PETERSON, AND DECLARING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
4 ERIK PETERSON DAY ON MARCH 31, 2024.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, Erik Peterson, son of Jack and Rose-Mary Peterson, moved to
7 Idaho at a young age and attended Taft, Saint Mary's, and Saint Joseph's
8 schools in Boise and Meridian High School; and

9 WHEREAS, Erik Peterson chose to attend the University of Idaho's Col-
10 lege of Mines and Earth Resources to study under Dr. Maynard Miller, his
11 friend and mentor from the Juneau Icefield Research Program. While studying
12 there, he also served as a resident advisor and resident advisor supervisor.
13 Following his father's example of service in the United States Marine Corps,
14 both of his parents' service in the Peace Corps, and his stepmother Faith's
15 service as a nurse practitioner caring for underserved citizens, he chose to
16 join the University of Idaho's Chrisman Battalion of the Army Reserve Offi-
17 cers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

18 WHEREAS, Erik Peterson received Bachelor of Science degrees in both Ge-
19 ography and Cartography from the University of Idaho's College of Mines and
20 Earth Resources in 1986; and

21 WHEREAS, he received his Army commission in 1986 as a Distinguished
22 Military Graduate of the University of Idaho's Chrisman Battalion of the
23 Army ROTC program, was assigned to the Aviation Branch, and completed flight
24 school in 1987; and

25 WHEREAS, additional educational achievements by Erik Peterson include
26 Master's degrees in Business Administration and National Security Strategy.
27 He continued his professional military education with the Aviation Warrant
28 Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command
29 and General Staff College, and the National War College; and

30 WHEREAS, his key command and leadership assignments include four tours
31 with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Director
32 of the Flight Concepts Division, Fort Eustis, VA; Brigade Commander, 10th
33 Combat Aviation Brigade and the Chief of Staff, 10th Mountain Division
34 (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY; Deputy Commanding General, United States
35 Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, KY; Commanding General of United States Army
36 Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC; Director of
37 Army Aviation on the Army staff at the Pentagon; Commanding General of Divi-
38 sion West of First United States Army, Fort Hood, TX, which consists of five
39 brigades and two mobilization sites arrayed across the country; the Director
40 of Force Development, in G-8, where he served as the principal advisor to the
41 Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8; the Vice Chief of Staff, Army; and the Chief of
42 Staff, Army, on all Army-wide equipping programs and resources; and

1 WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Erik Peterson served in numerous combat and
2 contingency deployments to Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia,
3 and the Middle East, including Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert
4 Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy, and numerous deployments for both Opera-
5 tion Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve; and

6 WHEREAS, his military awards and decorations include three Distin-
7 guished Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, six Bronze Star Medals, five
8 Meritorious Service Medals, five Air Medals with valor device, the NATO
9 Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Master Army Avi-
10 ator Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge. His
11 foreign military awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of
12 Kuwait), the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), the Order of
13 National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal (Republic of Korea), the Australian
14 Parachutist Badge, an honorary Republic of Korea Master Aviator Badge, and
15 an honorary Swedish Parachutist Badge; and

16 WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Erik Peterson was the first recipient of
17 the United States Committee of the Blue Shield's Award for Meritorious Mil-
18 itary Service in Protection of Cultural Property (2014); was inducted into
19 the United States Army ROTC Hall of Fame (2016); received an honorary Ph.D.
20 from the University of Idaho (2018); and was inducted into the University of
21 Idaho Alumni Hall of Fame (2022); and

22 WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Erik Peterson became the Deputy Chief of
23 Staff, G-8, on June 2, 2021, and will retire from his distinguished military
24 career on March 31, 2024, after 38 years of service to his nation; and

25 WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Erik Peterson is retiring as the highest
26 ranking United States Army Officer in the history of the University of Idaho
27 and the State of Idaho, bringing honor to our state and nation.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
29 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
30 resentatives concurring therein, that the State of Idaho recognizes the out-
31 standing contributions that Lieutenant General Erik Peterson has made to the
32 people of Idaho and the nation through his distinguished military service
33 and commitment to the defense of our nation.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature declares Lieutenant
35 General Erik Peterson's retirement date of March 31, 2024, as "Lieutenant
36 General Erik Peterson Day" in honor of his extraordinary leadership to the
37 Department of the Army and Department of Defense in protecting our nation's
38 freedoms.