



2011 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

1 **Relating to:** congratulating the 147th Aviation Regiment.

2 Whereas, the Wisconsin-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the
3 Army National Guard mobilized in June 2010 and deployed in September 2010 in
4 support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

5 Whereas, the 147th was among the 50,000 U.S. troops who remained in Iraq
6 after Operation New Dawn began and who were responsible for all aviation
7 operations—including troop and cargo movements, medevac, and attack
8 missions—in United States Division-South, which covers nine provinces of Iraq,
9 including the area south of Baghdad; and

10 Whereas, the 147th, known as the “Iron Hawks,” is a UH-60M Black Hawk
11 helicopter unit that includes soldiers in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana; and

12 Whereas, the Iron Hawks received the 2010 Army Aviation Association of
13 America’s John J. Stanko award; and

14 Whereas, this is the first such award for a Wisconsin National Guard helicopter
15 unit; and

1 Whereas, the John J. Stanko Award is presented to the Army National Guard
2 aviation unit that has made an outstanding contribution or innovation to the field
3 of army aviation above and beyond the normal assigned mission; and

4 Whereas, Lt. Colonel Marty Pond is the battalion commander of the Iron
5 Hawks; and

6 Whereas, the nature of the 147th's mission in Iraq was outside of normal
7 parameters. Operating with aviation units from Colorado and Kansas as Task Force
8 Ironhawk, the 147th covered all of the United States Division-South — including six
9 bases — performing the highest number of missions of any battalion supporting the
10 1st Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red
11 One); and

12 Whereas, during a four-month span, the 147th flew 1,986 missions totaling
13 more than 15,000 combat hours without accidents. Three of the aviation battalion
14 companies moved more than 5,600 passengers and 660,000 pounds of cargo in that
15 time frame, while the fourth provided round-the-clock medevac coverage at four
16 locations, conducting 102 missions and transporting 109 patients; and

17 Whereas, on the ground, aircraft from three units across six bases were
18 integrated into one maintenance program, with an airframe readiness rate greater
19 than 85 percent. Battalion mechanics provided expert instruction on the UH-60M
20 to contractors and aviation intermediate maintenance units; and

21 Whereas, one-third of Company E's soldiers cross-trained to learn refueling
22 operations, and improved the process so that one refueling point can serve six Black
23 Hawks. Company E dispensed nearly 900,000 gallons of fuel with no environmental
24 mishaps; and

1 Whereas, prior to deploying, the 147th was converted to the first Army National
2 Guard air assault helicopter battalion, which involved intensive training and
3 fielding new equipment. Flight instructors with the 147th also trained helicopter
4 pilots from numerous other guard and active army aviation units, resulting in 25
5 qualified pilots and eight instructor pilots; and

6 Whereas, warrant officers in the 147th from Wisconsin and Michigan formed
7 a communications security team to train on the new communications system for the
8 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter. The process they developed became the standard
9 used by the Army; and

10 Whereas, the 147th reported for active duty on June 17, 2010, for its third
11 Middle East deployment. A portion of the battalion first deployed to Iraq in March
12 2003. The unit also deployed to Kuwait from July 2001 to August 2002 in support
13 of Operation Desert Spring. A portion of the 147th also deployed in support of Task
14 Force Eagle, the NATO peacekeeping operation in Kosovo, in July 2006 for a
15 one-year mission; and

16 Whereas, the 147th has played an important role in stateside responses, such
17 as the historic mobilization of the National Guard across the country to respond to
18 Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf coast, and the Wisconsin floods of 2008. In 1998 the
19 147th deployed to Guatemala for several months following Hurricane Mitch; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
22 Wisconsin legislature congratulate the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment of the
23 Army National Guard on receiving the John J. Stanko Award; and, be it further

