

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0001

Equal military benefits for citizens.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Esquibel, F., Coe, Cooper and
Hastert and Representative(s) Bagby,
Buchanan, Lockhart and Thompson

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to provide equal
2 benefits to Puerto Rican Veterans.

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4 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has been a territory of the United
5 States since 1898; and

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7 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since the
8 approval of the Jones Act in 1917; and

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10 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have fought and died valiantly in
11 all major U.S. military conflicts; and

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13 WHEREAS, the participation of the American citizens of
14 Puerto Rico has always been commendable and honorable in

1 all armed conflicts of paramount importance to our Nation;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, when delivering his
5 second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865 spoke of the need
6 "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for
7 his widow and his orphan", and not to care only for some of
8 those who shall have borne the battle; and

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10 WHEREAS, Puerto Rican veterans have "borne the battle" in
11 the defense of our democracy and freedom in order to
12 preserve our way of life and to protect our Country and its
13 interests around the world; and

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15 WHEREAS, Puerto Rican Veterans deserve all the support,
16 help, respect and admiration of their government and fellow
17 citizens for risking their lives in the line of fire; and

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19 WHEREAS, veterans residing in Puerto Rico should be
20 entitled to all the privileges other U.S. veterans enjoy;
21 and

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1 WHEREAS, veterans who reside in Puerto Rico do not have the
2 same TRICARE benefit options available to all other U.S.
3 Veterans in the mainland; and

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5 WHEREAS, Puerto Rican Veterans certainly deserve the same
6 benefits and equal treatment as their peers.

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8 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
9 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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11 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature
12 recognizes the honorable and valuable service rendered by
13 Puerto Rican Veterans in the Armed Forces of the United
14 States of America for the protection of the lives and
15 freedom of our citizens and the democracy of our Nation.

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17 **Section 2.** That the Wyoming State Legislature
18 expresses the need for fair and equal treatment regarding
19 TRICARE health care benefit options available to veterans
20 who reside in Puerto Rico and urge the Wyoming
21 Congressional Delegation to support measures to provide
22 those veterans the same benefits available to all other
23 veterans who reside in the fifty (50) states and the
24 District of Columbia.

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2 **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
3 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
4 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
6 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional
7 Delegation.

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(END)