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80th House District
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Committees
Agriculture (Vice-Chair)
Community Revitalization
Education K-12
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Johnathan Newman State Representative

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on H.C.R 23, to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Army and the United States Army Chaplain Corps.

On June 14, 1775 the Continental Congress authorized formation of the Continental Army led by General George Washington. One of his first requests of Congress was the formation of the Army Chaplain Corps, which they did 6 weeks after the Army's birth on July 29, 1775. From that time forward, Army Chaplains have served alongside combat personnel in every major military operation from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and The War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While General Washington knew that a determined army was required to defeat the greatest military force on earth, he also knew that his men had great needs, spiritual needs. The care of their souls through the chaplains' prayers, worship services, and preaching of the Bible to nurture them with the eternal truths of Jesus Christ was essential. In orders to his men issued at Valley Forge, May 2, 1778 he said this:

"While we are duly performing the duty of good soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of a Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a Christian."

The 218 chaplains in the Continental Army grew to 9,117 in World War II, and currently 5,600 serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. They represent a diversity of Christian denominations and other religious faiths.

With this resolution, we want to honor our U.S. Army personnel for their honorable service over the last 250 years. We also want to honor the Army Chaplains Corps who for 250 years have served Army personnel even during their darkest days.

Thank you, Chairwoman Richardson, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the Committee for hearing my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathan Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.