

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancey Harrington at 10:45 a.m. on March 18, 2003 in the State Defense Building.

All members were present except: Senator Vratil, excused

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor
Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brigadier General James A. Mason

Others attending: Please see attached.

Chairperson Harrington opened the confirmation hearing for:

Rank of Major General in the Kansas Army National Guard

Greg Gardner, Adjutant General for the State of Kansas, gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the hearing to the committee. He described the interrelation of the National Guard in both the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Kansas and the need for appointments to be confirmed at both levels for this position.

Chairperson Harrington extended her thanks and appreciation to Brigadier General Mason for his service to the state and nation.

Brigadier General Mason briefly reviewed his career and current activities and responsibilities to the committee via satellite from his current position in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He described a typical day for himself beginning in the early morning with an intelligence briefing, transfer to commander conference call, peace keeping missions, and weapons harvests to collect various arms including anti-tank weapons, grenades, mines, and rocket propelled grenades.

Following further discussion, Chairperson Harrington asked for the confirmation of Brig. Gen. Mason.

Senator Gooch made a motion to recommend the confirmation of Brigadier General Mason for the rank of Major General in the Kansas Army National Guard favorable for passage. Senator Teichman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Brigadier General Mason thanked the committee for the vote of confidence and reiterated that the troops are serving you well and that he appreciated the comment about being in the committee's thoughts and prayers.

Chairperson Harrington opened the public hearing on:

SR 1827--Amendment to Constitution to protect the pledge of allegiance and our national motto

Theresa Kiernan explained the bill to the committee, outlining its intent to memorialize Congress to adopt a resolution to leave the Constitution as it is and to specifically include the pledge and a clarification that it is not a violation of the first amendment. She also explained some technical amendments that need to be made to the bill before it is sent to the floor.

Senator Teichman made a motion to make the technical amendments to SR 1827. Senator Barnett seconded the motion. The amendments to SR 1827 were passed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE at 10:45 a.m. on March 18, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend the bill favorably as amended. Senator Barnett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.