

2007-2008 SENATE VETERANS AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ROSTER

Senator John Douglas, 17th
Chairman
295 Nicklaus Circle
Social Circle, GA 30025

Senator Cecil Staton, 18th
Vice Chairman
P. O. Box 26427
Macon, GA 31221

Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
Secretary
P. O. Box 1356
Perry, GA 31069

Senator Jack Murphy, 27th
Ex Officio
3830 Adams Road
Cumming, GA 30041

Senator Robert Brown, 26th
P. O. Box 5742
Macon, GA 31208

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
P. O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

Senator Curt Thompson, 5th
6320 Glenbrook Drive
Tucker, Georgia 30084

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2007-2008

1. Quorum of the committee shall be three (3) members.
2. The Chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Subcommittees in turn shall have authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the chairperson. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
4. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairperson.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. Any member or members of the committee who disagrees with the majority report of the committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the committee.
8. Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
9. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
10. The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
11. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

SENATE VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, January 30, 2007 at 4:10 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas of the 17th
Staton of the 18th
Jones of the 10th
Thompson, C. of the 5th
Whitehead of the 24th (Ex-Officio)
Schaefer of the 50th (Ex-Officio)
Murphy of the 27th (Ex-Officio)

Note: Senators Tolleson and Brown were absent.

Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order. The rules of the committee were discussed. Senator C. Thompson made a motion to adopt the Rules and Senator Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Chairman Douglas introduced LTC Nate Pulliam, Retired. LTC Pulliam came today to reflect on the insights and experiences gleaned from a year in Baghdad, where he served as Deputy of the Military Transition Team (“MiTT”) for the 6th Iraqi Army Division, which is the main infantry division in Baghdad. Because he was recently on active duty in combat, yet is not currently on active duty, he has the freedom to speak openly and frankly about his assessment of the war. LTC Pulliam stated that this war is being fought as if it is a police action and not a war and that there are mistakes being made, but we can still win if we step up our actions. He further stated that the key to winning is to try and recruit the insurgents who are mainly former Saddam soldiers who are being paid by the insurgents and if they are paid more by the current president then some if not most of the attacks will stop. He further stated that the US should not attempt to rebuild Iraq while we are still engaged in the war. This should be done after the war is over, because the insurgents are bombing what is being rebuilt.

NOTE: Senator Staton arrived at 4:30 p.m.

Major General Terry Nesbitt, Commanding General, Georgia Army National Guard. He updated the committee on troops guarding the border in New Mexico. General Nesbitt stated that the troops are doing a great job, they all volunteered for this assignment and feel that their presence is making a difference, however, their presence is to provide information to the Border Patrol and they are not there to police the border.

NOTE: Senator Jones left at 4:55 p.m.

There being no further business, Chairman Douglas adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tolleson of the 20th, Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon,
Recording Secretary

SENATE VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

The Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, February 15, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas of the 17th
Tolleson of the 20th
Staton of the 18th
Schaefer of the 50th (Ex-Officio)
Murphy of the 27th (Ex-Officio)

Note: Senators Jones, C. Thompson and Brown were absent.

SR 81 (Sen. Hill, 32nd) Islamic Republic of Iran; condemning the nuclear program

Senator Judson Hill stated that he believes in doing things in Georgia that impact all Georgians and will benefit all Georgians as well as US citizens.

He further stated that Iran is a very dangerous country which exports a disdain for western culture and what it represents. Action should be taken because Iran is a threat to peace in the Middle East and is probably the maker and supplier of armor piercing bombs that are being used against our troops and there are implications that Iran poses a global threat and that the US cannot afford a nuclear 9/11.

President Bush spoke recently on C-SPAN against Iran and the threat in the region.

The Chairman opened the floor for questions and stated that the only US allies in the Middle East are Israel and Egypt. He further stated that until 1979 Iran was our ally until the Shah was overthrown.

Chairman Douglas asked how do nukes destabilize the Middle East and that they do not have to take action but threaten action and what does it do to the region when the Holocaust is denied? Senator Judson Hill replied that it further destabilizes the region, making it more volatile and unstable and that the current leader advocating destroying Israel and Iran is possibly the chief financier of Hezbollah.

Chairman Douglas asked is this a proxy war. Senator Judson Hill responded that it appears that way.

Senator Tolleson stated that this is a serious path we are headed down here with nuclear weapons. The USSR never advocated destruction of peaceful neighbors. He asked if Senator Judson Hill knew of Israel's reaction.

Senator Judson Hill replied that they are extremely patient and that the small nation who will continue to stand for peace.

Senator Schaefer thanked Senator Judson Hill for this resolution.

Senator Staton made a motion that [Senate Resolution 81](#) **“do pass”**. Senator Tolleson seconded the motion. SR 81 passed 5-0.

There being no further business, Chairman Douglas adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tolleson of the 20th, Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon,
Recording Secretary

SENATE VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, March 15, 2007 at 10:09 a.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas of the 17th
Staton of the 18th
Jones of the 10th
Schaefer of the 50th (Ex-Officio)
Murphy of the 27th (Ex-Officio)

Note: Senators Tolleson, C. Thompson and Brown were absent.

Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order. The new rules of the committee were discussed. Senator Staton made a motion to adopt the corrected Rules changing the quorum from five (5) members to three (3). Senator Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

SR 319 (Sen. Douglas, 17th) North Georgia College/State University; urge Board of Regents to maintain current military program

Chairman Douglas turned the meeting over to Senator Staton. Chairman Douglas presented the resolution. He stated this resolution requests that the Board of Regents and chancellor of the University System of Georgia maintain the current military science program at the Senior Military College of Georgia, North Georgia College and State University. He read a statement he prepared and a few statements he had received from alumni of North Georgia College and State University in support of Senate Resolution 319. He stated that NGCSU wants to remove the requirement that it is mandatory for male students living on campus to participate in the military science program.

Chairman Douglas resumed the chair and opened the floor for statements from attendees.

Kathy Bunner, President of the Alumni Council, reported that she had received over 700 emails at home over the past month in support of SR 319. She stated that NGCSU is a beautiful place to go to school and that the Board of Trustees was not aware of the proposed change.

Senator Schaefer asked if there were alternative programs to draw in more male students.

Senator Murphy stated that his daughter had attended NGCSU and therefore, he has a vested interest in this college.

Bob Babich, Class of 1985, read a letter he received from Lee Hackle.

Lt. Colonel Jay Beck, Class of 1978, stated that he attended NGCSU, because it was the only 4 year college of its type in the United States.

Lee Duncan, Class of 1971, requested that the committee allow the school leadership to deal with this situation.

Senator Murphy made a motion that [Senate Resolution 319](#) **“do pass”**. Senator Schaefer seconded the motion. SR 319 passed 5-0.

There being no further business, Chairman Douglas adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tolleson of the 20th, Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon,
Recording Secretary

June 19, 2007

Mr. Robert Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
352 Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

As the Recording Secretary for the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, I would like to report there were no bills left in committee at the end of the 2007-2008 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee