

2009-2010 SENATE VETERANS,  
MILITARY & HOMELAND SECURITY  
COMMITTEE ROSTER

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

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

Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd  
*Vice Chairman*  
P. O. 3119  
Brunswick, GA 31521

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

Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th  
P. O. Box 2000  
Cornelia, GA 30535

Senator Bill Jackson, 24th  
*Ex-Officio*  
P. O. Box 528  
Appling, GA 30802

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

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

Senator Cecil Staton, 18th  
*Ex-Officio*  
P. O. Box 26427  
Macon, GA 31221

## **VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**2009-2010**

1. Quorum of the committee shall be five (5) 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.

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
January 27, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vice Chairman  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

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

Senator Staton gave the Invocation.

**HB 674 (Rep. Smyre, 132<sup>nd</sup>) Bingo games; limits on amounts of prizes; remove**  
Representative Calvin Smyre thanked the members of the committee for hearing the bill and then spoke on behalf of the bill.

Representative Smyre then requested a delay in hearing the bill until he has an opportunity to meet with some of his constituents. The Committee granted his request unanimously.

**SB 216 (Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>) Public Officers; provide spouse of armed forces member; 90 days of personal leave with pay/add. 30 days without pay; define term**

In the absence of Senator Jones, Senator Douglas explained the bill and stated his concerns with the bill. Senator Murphy stated that he also had concerns with the bill.

Senator Douglas called for a motion.

Senator Murphy made the motion that **SB 216 Do Not Pass**. The motion was seconded by Senator Bill Jackson. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**SR 626 (Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>) Private Health Insurers; require to pay for the treatment of veterans' service connected injuries/disabilities; express opposition**

Senator Douglas explained that this legislation would require the government to pay for the treatment of veterans' service connected injuries and disabilities.

Senator Douglas called for a motion.

Senator Staton made the motion that [SR 626](#) **Do Pass**. The motion was seconded by Senator Bill Jackson. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
February 10, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vice Chairman  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>, (at 3:15p.m)  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio (at 3:12 p.m.)  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

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

**[SB 355](#) (Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>) Health; provide that priority list of persons authorized to control the disposition of the remains of a deceased person**

Senator Ed Harbison informed the committee that the purpose of this bill is to clarify who has the right to handle the disposition of the body of deceased armed forces personnel. He stated that several stories from families plagued by the decision of who would handle their deceased loved one's body precipitated the need for this legislation. He further stated that there is a form all military personnel are required to fill out regarding this matter. This form is kept in the U. S. Department of Defense Record of Emergency Data, DD Form 95, which allows the personnel to designate an authorized person to handle their body. Senator Harbison's legislation ensures this form is utilized in Georgia.

Senator Staton asked if personnel are able to update this record. Senator Harbison stated that each time a member of the armed forces begins a tour; the form is filled out again to ensure all information is up-to-date and correct.

Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Bill Jackson made the motion that **[SB 355](#) Do Pass**. The motion was seconded by Senator Staton. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

**SR 955 (Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>) Georgia Dept. of Education; urging all school systems to safeguard the rights of children under the age of 17 from military recruitment**

Senator Nan Orrock stated that the purpose of this bill is to discourage military-related activities and military recruitment of children under the age of 17. It urges schools to plan an active role in obtaining parental consent when military-related activities commence on school campus. Another part of the legislation urges school systems to inform parents that their child's contact information is being released, under the No Child Left Behind Act. There is an opt-out clause in this Act, that is not well known and school systems do not provide parents with the form.

After a lot of discussion from members of the committee and audience members. Mr. Tim Franz of the American Friends Service Committee asked Senator Orrock if she would be willing to request that the committee reschedule this meeting to a later date in order to hear testimony from a recruiter to provide further information on this issue. Senator Orrock made the request and the committee agreed to hear this bill at a meeting two weeks from today.

The Committee granted her request unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
February 17, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Chapman, B. Jackson, and C. Thompson were absent.

**SB 383 (Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>) Public Officers; spouse of any member of armed forces who was wounded in combat/return to this state; leave of absence**

Senator Emanuel Jones stated that the purpose of this legislation is to allow state employees to take up to 30 days of paid leave for a spouse injured in current military conflicts. The bill also provides for an additional 30 days of unpaid leave. Senator Emanuel Jones acknowledged the tough position families are in when a loved one returns from war with a permanent disability. This legislation is only intended for the current military conflicts and will not be valid once the United States have concluded their involvement.

Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Brown moved that **SB 383 DO Pass**. Senator Staton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**SR 1035 (Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>) U. S. President; urged to pardon three Navy SEALs facing court martial proceedings**

Senator David Shafer, stated that currently there are three Navy SEALs who are facing court martial proceedings for allegedly punching terrorist Ahmed Hashim Abed in the stomach during his capture. This resolution urges President Barack Obama to personally review the case of these men: Special Warfare Operators Second Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator First Class Julio Huertas, for a presidential pardon. Abed evaded justice for five years before his capture by these three SEALs.

Senator Butterworth requested that the resolution be sent by certified mail.

Senator Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Murphy moved that **SR 1035 Do Pass by Substitute**. Senator Butterworth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Robert Brown, 26th  
Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

240 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

March 9, 2010

The Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2-3.2, please let this letter serve as official notice that Senators Buddy Carter and Greg Goggans are hereby appointed to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security as Ex-Officio Members.

These appointments are effective immediately and expire at the end of the day.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
March 9, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

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

**SB 454 (Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>) Bingo; define certain terms; provide certain veterans organizations may sell certain pull tab games of chance**

Bobby Boss, Commandant of American Legion Post 233 in Loganville, spoke to the bill which will permit veterans organizations to sell pull tab games with winnings that are limited to \$500 per person per 24 hour time period. A “pull tab game” is defined as a multi-layered paper ticket containing symbols hidden behind perforated tabs with two sides. One side lists the winning combination of the symbols, the cash payout for each combination, the total number of the tickets that contain each winning combination and the number of tickets in the game. The other side contains the perforated tabs which upon purchase and when the player pulls reveal the winnings, if any.

Mr. Boss testified that this bill is important because the Georgia Lottery Corporation has severely impacted his organization from making money that goes directly to the local community, along with the decline from Bingo as a way of raising funds. The American Legion needs other options to raise money in order to continue assisting veterans and other citizens. This bill passed out of the Senate in 2008, but failed to receive passage in the House

Senator Douglas called for a motion on SB 454.

Senator Bill Jackson made the motion that **SB 454 Do Pass**. Senator Butterworth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
March 10, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Brown and Chapman were absent.

**[SR 955](#) (Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>) Georgia Dept. of Education; urging all school systems to safeguard the rights of children under the age of 17 from military recruitment**

Senator Nan Orrock thanked the Committee for again allowing her to present her resolution. She presented the members with copies of the No Child Left Behind Act that pertains to recruitment. She stated that she changed the wording of the resolution to clarify and not cloud the issue of recruitment of high school students. She further explained that parents can request a form that would allow their child to “opt out” but schools are not providing the form in student packets or informing parents of this option.

A former Marine Corps recruiter, two students and two mothers spoke on their experiences with recruiting students under age 17 for the military. Mrs. Marilyn Tillman stated that she moved to Snellville, GA from Montgomery County, MD and she felt that Gwinnett County Schools gave her the run-around when she requested the form

Major General Terry Nesbitt and Recruiting Commandant Anthony Abbott provided information on how the Georgia National Guard handles recruitment. General Nesbitt stated that when he entered the military it was by draft and now the military is all volunteer. He further stated that there are always exceptions to recruitment by military recruiters. The Georgia National Guard stress they want recruiters to paint an accurate picture. They further stated that the National Guard has a 100% retention rate and they have currently capped/raised the standard to slow up recruitment.

After discussion and comments by members of the committee, Chairman Douglas asked if Senator Orrock had any closing statements and she stated that SR 955 is asking that school systems in Georgia comply with Federal law on recruitment activities.

Senator Douglas called for a motion on SR 955.

Senator Murphy made the motion that **SR 955 Do Not Pass**. There was no second.

Senator Emanuel Jones made the motion to table **SR 955** because it is better handled by U. S. Congress than on a state level. Senator C. Thompson seconded the motion.

Discussion by Senator Butterworth stated that a resolution urging the Georgia Department of Education to review with the school systems would not be unreasonable.

Senator Murphy stated that perhaps a meeting with Superintendent. Kathy Cox should be arranged to ask what is happening in schools regarding recruitment efforts.

Senator Murphy made the motion that **SR 955 Do Not Pass**. Senator Butterworth seconded the motion.

After further discussion by the committee, Senator Emanuel Jones amended his motion to request that **SR 955 be tabled** until after a meeting with Superintendent Kathy Cox has taken place. Senator C. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
240 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2-3.2, please let this letter serve as official notice that Senator Ronnie Chance is hereby appointed to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security as an Ex-Officio Member.

This appointment is effective immediately and expires at the end of the day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

**Minutes of the  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee  
April 20, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Brown, Chapman, B. Jackson, C. Thompson, and Murphy were absent.

**HB 674 (Rep. Smyre, 132<sup>nd</sup>) Bingo games; limits on amounts of prizes; remove**  
Representative Calvin Smyre thanked the members of the committee for allowing him to again present this bill and then spoke on behalf of the bill. Representative Smyre explained that the reasoning behind the bill is to allow the veterans' organizations in his district to be competitive with the organizations in Alabama and it would also allow the organizations to pay the workers a better salary.

Senator Douglas called for a motion on HB 674.

Senator E. Jones made the motion that **HB 674 Do Pass by Substitute**. Senator Butterworth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Due to time constraints, the meeting temporarily adjourned at 1:00 p.m. until the close of session.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

**Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee**  
**April 20, 2010**

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee reconvened on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in the Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

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

**[SR 1489](#) (Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>) U.S. Navy; urged to rescind its decision to name a ship after the late Rep. John Murtha**

Senator Douglas explained the purpose of this resolution is to request that the United States Navy does not name a ship to honor Representative John Murtha because of his involvement in the arrest of five Marines for the murder of an Iraqi.

Senator Douglas called for a motion.

Senator Staton made the motion that **[SR 1489](#) Do Pass**. Senator Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th  
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary

June 11, 2010

Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Room 353  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee**, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

[SB 358](#)

[SR 955](#)

[SR 626](#)

[SR 988](#)

[SR 692](#)

[SR 1084](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee