



HR0231

LRB100 12058 MST 24150 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, 2017 marks the centennial observance of the entry of the United States into World War I, a war that lasted from 1914 to November 11, 1918, with the United States formally entering the war on April 6, 1917; and

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WHEREAS, More than four million American men and women served in uniform during World War I; the United States suffered 375,000 casualties and 116,516 deaths; and

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WHEREAS, More than 350,000 Illinoisans served in the military during World War I; the war claimed the lives of 4,266 Illinois servicemen; and

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WHEREAS, One out of every 12 men who fought in the United States Army was from Illinois; Illinois furnished more men to the Armed Forces during the war than any other state except New York and Pennsylvania; and

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WHEREAS, Among the units that fought in the war were the 33rd Infantry Division, which was comprised solely of Illinois residents, and the 370th Infantry Division, which consisted of mostly Illinois residents and which was the only regiment in the then-segregated military that consisted entirely of African American soldiers, including officers; and

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1 WHEREAS, Illinoisans took part in naval and aerial combat
2 in some of the most hard-fought battles of the war, including
3 Le Hamel, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the Somme Offensive, and
4 around St. Mihiel; and

5 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Military Museum, located at
6 Camp Butler in Springfield, tells the story of all Illinois
7 veterans and of their service to our country and will be
8 commemorating the centennial of World War I with educational
9 programs, reenactments, and written histories; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois National Guard troops were activated for
11 duty in preparation for the war on March 26, 1917, two weeks
12 before the American entry into the war; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 commemorate the centennial of the United States entering and
16 participating in World War I beginning on March 26, 2017, the
17 date Illinois soldiers mobilized for the war effort; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois State Military
20 Museum, the Illinois World War I Centennial Committee, and all
21 Illinois residents to honor and commemorate the heroic men and

1 women who fought for freedom and democracy during the Great
2 War; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to the Illinois State Military Museum and the
5 Illinois World War I Centennial Committee.