



HR1117

LRB100 22135 MST 40530 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On November 4, 1943, members of the American Legion met at the Luther B. Easley Post 128 in Salem; at this meeting, the G.I. Bill of Rights (officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944) was "born" to assist veterans of active service in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II; and

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WHEREAS, The G.I. Bill of Rights was drafted by Omar J. McMackin of Salem, Earl W. Merritt of Salem, former Governor John Stelle of McLeansboro, Dr. Leonard W. Esper of Springfield, George H. Bauer of Effingham, William R. McCauley of Olney, James P. Ringley of Lemont, and A. L. Starshak of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, The plan, originally written down as ideas on napkins in Salem, eventually became legislation passed by the U.S. Senate on June 12, 1944 and the U.S. House of Representatives on June 13, 1944; it was signed into law by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on June 22, 1944; and

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WHEREAS, There were several key components of the G.I. Bill of Rights that included educational opportunity, vocational on-the-job training, readjustment financial allowances, home, farm, and business loans, a review of discharges, adequate

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1 health care for veterans, the prompt settlement of disability
2 claims, mustering-out pay (which was removed from the bill
3 after it was enacted separately), effective veteran employment
4 services, and the concentration of all veterans functions in
5 the Veterans Administration; and

6 WHEREAS, On June 26, 1958, the American Legion - Department
7 of Illinois recognized with a citation stating "That All Men
8 will now recognize the Luther B. Easley Post 128 as the
9 Birthplace of the G.I. Bill of Rights"; and

10 WHEREAS, This historic piece of legislation is a fine
11 example of things to recognize as being born, built, or grown
12 in Illinois as part of the Illinois bicentennial; therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
16 recognize November 4, 2018 as the 75th anniversary of the
17 "birth" of the G.I. Bill of Rights (officially known as the
18 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944) at the Luther B. Easley
19 Post 128 of the American Legion in Salem; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 presented to Commander Harold Kocher of the Luther B. Easley
22 Post No. 128, and all other American Legion post commanders

1 with members involved in this historic meeting, as a symbol of
2 our esteem and respect.