



HR0310

LRB101 11975 MST 59160 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the American Legion on the
4 100th anniversary of its founding; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in
6 Paris, France by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed
7 there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and
8 advocacy: veterans, military personnel, youth, and patriotic
9 values; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, the American Legion consists of 55
11 "departments" in each of the 50 states, the District of
12 Columbia, France, Mexico, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico;
13 there are approximately 13,000 local posts worldwide; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Legion currently has a membership of
15 approximately two million; combined with the American Legion
16 Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, the number of
17 members exceeds three million; and

18 WHEREAS, Originally, American Legion membership was open
19 to military personnel and veterans who served their nation on
20 active duty during wartime; since August 2, 1990, membership
21 has been open to all who have served on active duty; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Legion has been instrumental in the
2 creation of a number of major institutions of American society,
3 including the formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
4 the creation of U.S. Flag Code, the passage of the GI Bill, and
5 more; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Legion annually donates over 3.7
7 million hours of volunteer service; it provides assistance on
8 more than 181,000 VA benefits claims and cases and donates over
9 80,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, which
10 makes it the nation's single largest blood donor; it sponsors
11 over 2,500 Scouting units, serving over 64,000 young people,
12 and awards over \$4 million in college scholarships; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Legion will mark its 100th
14 anniversary with a 15-month celebration that began with its
15 national convention in August 2018 and culminates on Veterans
16 Day 2019; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate the American Legion on the 100th anniversary of
20 its founding and wish it many more successful years; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the American Legion as a symbol of our respect and
3 esteem.