



HR0285

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 2017 marks the centennial observance of the entry
3 of the United States into World War I, a war that lasted from
4 1914 to November 11, 1918, with the United States formally
5 entering the war on April 6, 1917; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Among the units that fought in the war were the
17 33rd Infantry Division, which was comprised solely of Illinois
18 residents, and the 370th Infantry Division, which consisted of
19 mostly Illinois residents and which was the only regiment in
20 the then-segregated military that consisted entirely of
21 African American soldiers, including officers; and

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 Pritzker Military Museum and Library, as a
6 founding sponsor of both the United States and the Illinois
7 World War I Centennial Commissions, are helping to ensure that
8 Illinois, the Midwest, and the United States observe the World
9 War I centennial; and

10 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Military Museum, located at
11 Camp Lincoln in Springfield, tells the story of all Illinois
12 veterans and of their service to our country and will be
13 commemorating the centennial of World War I with educational
14 programs, reenactments, and written histories; and

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

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 commemorate the centennial of the United States entering and
21 participating in World War I beginning on March 26, 2017, the

1 date Illinois soldiers mobilized for the war effort; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois State Military
4 Museum, the Illinois World War I Centennial Committee, and all
5 Illinois residents to honor and commemorate the heroic men and
6 women who fought for freedom and democracy during the Great
7 War; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
9 presented to the Illinois State Military Museum, the Pritzker
10 Military Museum and Library, and the Illinois World War I
11 Centennial Committee.