



HR1136

LRB100 22187 MST 40699 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, During World War I, a group of 20 officers that
3 served in the American Expeditionary Forces were asked to
4 suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale; an officer, Lt.
5 Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization for
6 veterans; and

7 WHEREAS, From March 15 to 17, 1919, members of the American
8 Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American
9 Legion caucus; during the St. Louis Caucus from May 8 to 10,
10 1919, "The American Legion" was adopted as the organization's
11 official name; a draft preamble and constitution were approved,
12 and on June 9, 1919, the National Executive Committee adopted
13 the American Legion emblem; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered on September 16,
15 1919 by the United States Congress as a patriotic veteran's
16 organization, focusing on service to veterans, service
17 members, and communities; and

18 WHEREAS, From November 10 to 12, 1919, the first American
19 Legion convention was convened in Minneapolis where the
20 constitution and preamble were adopted and the delegates voted
21 to locate the national headquarters in Indianapolis instead of
22 Washington, D.C.; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Legion evolved from a group of
2 war-weary veterans from World War I into one of the most
3 influential nonprofit groups in the United States; its
4 membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts
5 sprang up across the country, including the chartering of
6 Stanley McCollum Post 280 in Benton on August 1, 1920; and

7 WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary at the Stanley
8 McCollum Post 280 received their charter August 4, 1922 with 20
9 ladies signing the application; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, American Legion membership stands at over
11 two million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide, organized into
12 55 departments, one each for the 50 states, along with the
13 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the
14 Philippines; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the years, the American Legion has influenced
16 considerable social change in America, obtained hundreds of
17 benefits for veterans, and produced many important programs for
18 children and youth; and

19 WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary President Freda
20 Broadway and American Legion Commander John Metzger are hosting
21 the kick-off dinner for the American Legion Centennial

1 Celebration on November 11, 2018 at Stanley McCollum Post #280,
2 which also serves as the home for the Veterans of Foreign Wars
3 Post #2671; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 recognize the American Legion for 100 years of devotion to
7 service members, veterans and local communities, and we wish
8 them, and especially the Stanley McCollum Post #280, a
9 successful Centennial Celebration kick-off dinner for the
10 American Legion 1919-2019; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 presented to Stanley McCollum Post #280 and to Denise Rohan,
13 National Commander of The American Legion in Indianapolis,
14 Indiana.