



HR1201

LRB100 23056 MST 42067 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, It is of the upmost importance that we honor those  
3 who fought and served for the freedom of our nation; and

4           WHEREAS, Despite everything Native Americans had endured,  
5 many of them felt the calling to serve the United States  
6 military during World War II; many served to protect the land  
7 on which their people had lived for thousands of years, others  
8 served out of patriotism, and others served to find  
9 opportunities for education; and

10           WHEREAS, After seeing the success of Choctaws and other  
11 Native Americans using their native languages as code during  
12 World War I, the U.S. Marine Corps began recruiting young  
13 Navajos in 1942 to serve in the Pacific during World War II;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, Some Navajo Code Talkers enlisted, while others  
16 were drafted, some even served underage and had to lie about  
17 their age to join; and

18           WHEREAS, Over 400 Navajos were eventually recruited as  
19 Navajo Code Talkers, undergoing intense training which  
20 included basic training, extensive training in communications,  
21 and memorization of the code; and

1           WHEREAS, The Navajo Code Talkers played an invaluable role  
2           in defeating the Japanese during World War II by using their  
3           native language as the code for communications during combat  
4           operations; and

5           WHEREAS, On the battlefield, the work of sending coded  
6           messages was extremely serious; being able to keep messages  
7           secret could make the difference between winning and losing a  
8           battle and affect how many lives were saved or lost; and

9           WHEREAS, Navajo Code Talkers did more than speak into a  
10          radio; they had to know how to operate both wire and radio  
11          equipment, often carrying it on their backs; and

12          WHEREAS, The Navajo Code Talkers were so successful, that  
13          neither the Japanese army or navy were ever able to crack the  
14          code, which remained classified until 1968; therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16          HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17          honor the Navajo military members of World War II and recognize  
18          the day of August 14, 2018 as being National Navajo Code  
19          Talkers Day.