

SENATE RESOLUTION

8728

By Senators Honeyford, Conway, and Wagoner

1 WHEREAS, On April 6, 1917, the Congress of the United States, at
2 the behest of President Woodrow Wilson, declared war on the German
3 Empire after their repeated depredations against civilian shipping
4 and pursuance of total war in Europe; and

5 WHEREAS, The state of Washington played a major role between 1917
6 and 1918 in this conflict to preserve democracy and check the advance
7 of German imperialism; and

8 WHEREAS, Before the United States entered the war in 1917, a
9 group of volunteers started a training camp at American Lake to
10 encourage citizen readiness for the war in Europe. This led to the
11 construction in 1917 of Tacoma's Camp Lewis which became the Army's
12 major West Coast training facility, housing the 91st or "Wild West"
13 Division which bore a green fir tree insignia on their uniforms; and

14 WHEREAS, In July 1918, 27,000 soldiers from the 91st Division
15 stationed at Camp Lewis sailed for Europe where they performed
16 exceptionally well in the Meuse-Argonne offensive that was launched
17 September 25th and broke through the German lines; and

18 WHEREAS, On October 4th the 91st Division stood down and 12 days
19 later fought in Belgium in the Battle of Flanders, one of the final
20 battles of the war and had an outstanding record, capturing 2,300
21 German prisoners, 400 machine guns, and a large number of field guns
22 and tanks; and

1 WHEREAS, The 91st Division suffered losses of 1,100 killed
2 in action or missing while five division soldiers earning
3 America's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, including a
4 University of Washington graduate and Seattle resident, First
5 Lieutenant Deming Bronson (1894-1957), who earned the Medal of
6 Honor for leading several attacks while seriously wounded; and

7 WHEREAS, The Washington National Guard had just returned
8 home from guarding the Mexican border when in March 1917,
9 Washington Governor Ernest Lister (1870-1919) ordered units
10 mobilized. The 2nd Washington Infantry Regiment was drafted into
11 federal service on August 5, 1917, and folded into the 41st
12 Division along with National Guard units from Montana, Idaho,
13 and Oregon. The 41st Division served as a replacement, training,
14 and depot unit, and is currently the oldest continuously serving
15 infantry division in the Regular Army having seen continuous
16 service since WWI; and

17 WHEREAS, The 146th Field Artillery was formed and after
18 leaving Camp Murray in 1918, saw action near Chateau Thierry,
19 the Aisne-Marne Operation, Saint Mihiel, and the Meusse-Argonne
20 Operation. The 146th Field Artillery continues today in the
21 Washington Army National Guard, most recently seeing combat
22 operations in Iraq in 2008-2009; and

23 WHEREAS, The first combat casualties sustained by Washington
24 National Guard members occurred near Chateau Thierry on July 11,
25 1918, where the 146th Field Artillery engaged the enemy; and

26 WHEREAS, William John "Wee" Coyle, a star Quarterback at the
27 University of Washington from 1904-1908, became an officer in
28 the 91st Division and won a medal for bravery leading a night
29 attack against German lines. Later, he was elected to the state
30 Senate and rose to become Lieutenant Governor from 1921-1925;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Monrad C. Wallgren from Everett was a proud
33 citizen-soldier in the Washington National Guard, served in
34 World War I and became a United States Representative, a United
35 States Senator, and the 13th Governor of Washington state; and

36 WHEREAS, Deming Bronson was a member of the 91st Division
37 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. Bronson was hit by a
38 grenade blast but continued to hold his position and helped

1 capture an enemy trench, during which he was shot in the arm.
2 The next day he helped lead an attack on a French village, where
3 he was hit a third time. Later recovering, he became the only
4 Washington resident to be awarded the Medal of Honor in World
5 War I; and

6 WHEREAS, 60,617 officers and enlisted from Washington state
7 served in the war in all branches of the service; and

8 WHEREAS, 1,642 Washingtonians lost their lives in the war;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Washington state timber producers supplied wood for
11 ships, barracks, buildings, and airplanes and Washington farmers
12 and food packers produced wheat for flour and packaged food such
13 as salmon to feed the troops; and

14 WHEREAS, Civilians of Washington state made significant
15 changes on the homefront to support the war effort. Led by the
16 United States Food Administration's efforts to conserve
17 resources, families planted victory gardens which led to more
18 home food production and conservation. They consumed less meat,
19 wheat, and sugar foodstuffs and women joined the workforce while
20 everyone from school children to the elderly joined the
21 "Knitting for Victory" campaigns to produce garments to send to
22 soldiers and civilians in Europe; and

23 WHEREAS, The patriotic sacrifices of Washington state men
24 and women are commemorated through World War I monuments and
25 memorials across the state from the Boulevard of Remembrance at
26 Fort Lewis, a series of Oak Trees eventually numbering nearly
27 500 planted in 1928 by the Tacoma Garden Club along the Pacific
28 Avenue corridor of Fort Lewis to honor the lives lost in the
29 conflict, to the Winged Victory monument on the Capitol Campus
30 dedicated in 1938, to Hill's Stonehenge Memorial in Klickitat
31 County, the nation's first WWI memorial dedicated in 1918; and

32 WHEREAS, Washington state will be home to many
33 commemorations throughout 2018 to honor the Centennial of WWI
34 and the 100th Anniversary of the Observance of Armistice Day
35 including a Ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda and a weekend long
36 Armistice Day Centennial Celebration which will begin at the
37 eleventh hour of the 11th day of November, with a ceremonial
38 ringing of bells and an exhibit at the Museum of History and

1 Industry in Seattle entitled "WWI America; and the Region's
2 Community Commemoration of the Great War";

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage
4 all residents of the state of Washington to reflect upon the
5 service and sacrifice of World War I veterans and their families
6 in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of cessation of
7 hostilities and as appropriate participate in any of the
8 numerous events throughout the year.

9 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
10 do hereby certify that this is a true and
11 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8728,
12 adopted by the Senate
13 March 3, 2018

14 BRAD HENDRICKSON
15 Secretary of the Senate