

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-194

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2019

To acknowledge the enormous contributions of the veterans of the District of Columbia who have defended our freedom and safeguarded our nation since its birth 243 years ago. The veterans of the District of Columbia served our country with loyalty, courage, and honor, and upheld the promise of “freedom, justice and equality” that America made to all its citizens.

WHEREAS, in the Civil War, 16,534 District of Columbia residents, including 3,269 US Colored Troops, served in the Union Military Service, and as a percentage of population, were more numerous than veterans in all other states except Kansas;

WHEREAS, in World War I, 25,852 District residents served and 635 died — more than in 10 other states;

WHEREAS, in World War II, 89,758 District residents served and 3,839 died — more than in 4 other states;

WHEREAS, in the Korean War, 547 District residents died – more than in 8 other states;

WHEREAS, in the Vietnam War, 243 District residents died – more than in 10 other states;

WHEREAS, over 140,000 District veterans have defended our freedom and safeguarded our nation by fighting in every major war in which residents of these United States of America have died;

WHEREAS, over 6,000 District veterans have sacrificed their lives for our country and are accredited with 54 Medals of Honor for acts of valor — more than in any other state;

WHEREAS, District veterans performed with loyalty, courage, and honor to uphold the promise that America made to all its citizens of “freedom, justice, and equality”;

WHEREAS, today 30,000 veterans who stepped forward and offered their lives to defend freedom and safeguard America call the District of Columbia home;

WHEREAS, for more than 200 years, residents of the District of Columbia have been sent to war by the United States Congress, the very legislative body that has denied the more

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than 700,000 residents of this city equal voting representation;

WHEREAS, the denial of voting representation for the District of Columbia in the United States Congress is an injustice that District veterans can no longer accept;

WHEREAS, District veterans continue to defend, honor and, restore the pledge made by these United States of America to those who offer their lives to protect the promise of freedom and equality for all;

WHEREAS, District veterans support District of Columbia Statehood as the avenue through which the people of the District of Columbia have chosen for their political freedom and equal representation in the United States Congress;

WHEREAS, District veterans are distinguished patriots who, in the absence of their very own freedom, continue to be loyal to our nation, answering America's call to service and volunteering to fight for the freedom of Americans in the killing fields of distant lands.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as "The District of Columbia Veterans Day Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia stands alongside its residents in recognizing the enormous contributions and legacy of District of Columbia veterans and designates November 11 as District of Columbia Veterans Day, as a traditional annual day of observance dedicated to the legacy of District of Columbia veterans and their honorable service to our country and to our city.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.