

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION IN ITS
CENTENNIAL YEAR.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the American Legion, a patriotic veterans service organization, was founded on March 15, 1919, by American servicemen in France and was chartered by Congress on September 16 of that year; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Department of Idaho was granted its temporary charter in 1919 and its permanent charter on August 1, 1920; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment, the American Legion has been dedicated to serving the interests of veterans and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Veterans Bureau, which later became the Veterans Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, was created on August 9, 1921, as a result of efforts led by the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Congress adopted the Flag Code, originally drafted at an American Legion conference, regarding the proper care and display of the United States flag; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, after being promoted by the American Legion, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, more commonly known as the G.I. Bill, was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, enabling millions of veterans to attain higher education; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion donated \$1 million to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., the American Legion being responsible for the largest single contribution to the project; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion's efforts to serve veterans included sponsoring an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange. The study results were presented to Congress in 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors, a program to assist wounded, injured, or ill service personnel by providing items not usually furnished by the government, including leisure wear, books, games, and other entertainment, earned first place and a \$250,000 grant in the Pepsi Refresh Project; and

WHEREAS, today, the American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization, with nearly 2 million members, including about 10,000 members in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion has more than 12,000 posts in communities throughout the United States, including 99 posts in Idaho, with additional posts in France, Mexico, and the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion is also dedicated to serving our country's youth through such programs as: American Legion Baseball, which fields more than 5,600 amateur baseball teams throughout the United States and Canada, and which has been supported by the American Legion Department of Idaho since

1 1926; Boys State, a leadership development program serving approximately
2 20,000 young men annually; and the American Legion National High School Ora-
3 torical Program, a speech contest intended to teach leadership skills, Amer-
4 ican history, and an understanding of the rights, privileges, and obliga-
5 tions of American citizenship; and

6 WHEREAS, the American Legion Department of Idaho purchased its depart-
7 ment headquarters in 1988 and has maintained consistently high membership
8 numbers over many years; and

9 WHEREAS, the American Legion is celebrating the hundredth anniversary
10 of its creation this year.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
12 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Repre-
13 sentatives concurring therein, that we honor and recognize the American Le-
14 gion on the event of its centennial.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the American Legion for its exem-
16 plary service and its dedication to veterans and for upholding and celebrat-
17 ing American values and ideals.