

No. R-129. House concurrent resolution congratulating the American Legion on its centennial.

(H.C.R.103)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, on March 15, 1919, in the aftermath of the 1918 armistice that ended World War I, a group of American soldiers gathered at the American Officers Club and then on March 17, 1919 at the Cirque de Paris for meetings known as the Paris Caucus, at which a new veterans' organization, tentatively named the American Legion, was established, and in May 1919, the deliberations continued at the Shubert Theater for the St. Louis (Missouri) Caucus, where the initial Paris decisions were finalized, and

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, the original American Legion Act, chartering the organization, was federally enacted, and

Whereas, in November 1919, at the first American Legion Convention, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the American Legion Auxiliary was officially recognized, enabling women to support the then exclusively male veterans, and

Whereas, at the September 1920 American Legion Convention, convened in Cleveland, Ohio, the delegates selected the poppy as the organization's official flower, reflecting John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields," and

Whereas, on November 11, 1921, President Warren G. Harding, World War I Allied generals, and American Legion officials buried the first Unknown Soldier at a specially prepared gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery, and

Whereas, the first American Legion Boys State convention was conducted in 1935, and in 1938, its companion, Girls State, was started, and

Whereas, as the result of the American Legion's vigorous advocacy, on June 12, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights, and

Whereas, in more recent decades, the American Legion provided major financial support for the construction of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. and sponsored studies examining post-traumatic stress disorder and the impact of Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans, and

Whereas, in Vermont, Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson, who was wounded three times as a Medical Corps member in France, participated in the Paris and St. Louis caucuses, served on the national executive committee, and organized the American Legion's Department of Vermont, and Green Mountain Post # 1 in St. Albans was the first post in the State, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the American Legion on its centennial, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont and to national American Legion headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.