

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-416

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 16, 2018

To recognize and honor the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice ending World War I and to honor the contributions of the District of Columbia, its citizens, and employees for their service in the Great War.

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1914, World War I began with the shelling and invasion of Serbia by the Austro-Hungarian Empire;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1917, the Congress of the United States declared war on Germany;

WHEREAS, with the District of Columbia having no congressional or even local representation, the citizens of the District had no opportunity to express their opinion on the issue of war and peace;

WHEREAS, despite having no vote in Congress, the citizens of the District of Columbia answered the country's call, with more than 26,000 District of Columbia men and women serving during World War I, 499 of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice;

WHEREAS, the Armistice ending World War I was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 (11/11/1918);

WHEREAS, in remembrance of those from the District of Columbia who served and/or lost their lives during World War I, the District of Columbia established 3 different memorials.

WHEREAS, the first, the 16th Street World War I Memorial, dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1920, consists of 2.3 miles of Sixteenth Street, N.W., between Alaska Avenue and Webster Street, and is designated as a memorial to these fallen heroes with the name of one of the 499 fallen veterans affixed to a small concrete post near a newly planted tree;

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WHEREAS, the District honored employees of the District government who served during World War I through the commissioning of the “Supreme Sacrifice” sculpture, also dedicated in 1920, which currently resides on the first floor of the John A. Wilson Building;

WHEREAS, two Commissioners and 489 other District government employees fought during World War I and, of those, 3 District government employees were killed in action, and 10 others died in the service during the war.;

WHEREAS, the third District of Columbia World War I Memorial was dedicated by President Herbert Hoover on the national observance of Armistice Day, November 11, 1931, and is inscribed with the names of the 499 Washington residents who died in service during World War I;

WHEREAS, the names of the 499 who died are inscribed on the face of the platform in alphabetical order with no distinction made as to rank, race, or gender, and the memorial’s inscription states: “The names of the men and women from the District of Columbia who gave their lives in the World War are here inscribed as a perpetual record of their patriotic service to their country. Those who fell and those who survived have given to this and to future generations an example of high idealism courageous sacrifice and gallant achievement.”; and

WHEREAS, the sentiments expressed by these 3 memorials remind us that freedom is not free and must be paid for by a willingness to meet and oppose those who would keep freedom from us.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "100 Anniversary of the World War I Armistice Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Colombia recognizes and honors the contributions and sacrifice of its citizens and employees 100 years ago, and further, calls upon all of its citizens, employees, and visitors, today, to pause and reflect on the supreme sacrifice made by so many in the Great War, now commonly known as World War I.

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