

2013-K1315

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I, and commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of World War II

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and which are indelibly etched in the saga of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I, and to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of World War II; and

WHEREAS, In 1914, the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, sparked one of the largest conflicts in world history; the breakdown of the system of alliances in Europe and imperial power politics resulted in a four year war, that would transform the entire globe; and

WHEREAS, Known at the time as the Great War, World War I was fought between the Allied Powers of France, Great Britain, Russia, and the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, From 2014 through 2018, the United States and nations around the world will mark the Centennial of World War I, including the entry of the United States into the war on April 6, 1917; and

WHEREAS, More than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War I, including two future presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

WHEREAS, World War I caused the fall of many European empires and set the stage for such further world events as World War II and the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, The Centennial of World War I offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the sacrifices of those veterans who served during this period of time; and

WHEREAS, World War II was the largest, most destructive war in world history; more than 50 nations took part in this massive conflict, which changed the world forever; and

WHEREAS, In September 1939, the Nazi controlled government in Germany invaded Poland, setting in motion their plans to conquer Europe; they were joined by Italy, Japan, and other smaller nations to form the Axis Powers, and opposed by the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, and later the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States entered the war and took on a central role; U.S. troops fought in North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, while Americans at home outproduced the Axis Powers in the manufacture of warplanes, battleships, and guns; and

WHEREAS, In June 1944, British and American forces launched the D-Day invasion, landing in German-occupied France via the coast of Normandy; soon the German army was forced into retreat from both east and west as Allied forces closed in on Berlin; and

WHEREAS, Germany surrendered in May 1945, ending the conflict in Europe which had taken so many lives; they were followed in August of that same year by Japan, after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, The ending of World War II set the stage for all of the important events of the 20th Century, including the Cold War, and Space Race; truly a global conflict, it greatly impacted the lives of everyone alive at the time; and

WHEREAS, The 75th Anniversary of World War II also offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the sacrifices of those veterans who served during this period; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportu-

nity to express its gratitude to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who served during both World War I and World War II for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I, and to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of World War II.