

1 HJR138
2 183456-1
3 By Representatives McClammy and Knight
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-MAR-17

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8 RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.

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10 WHEREAS, on April 6, 1917, the United States
11 Congress declared war on the German Empire in response to
12 unrestricted submarine warfare that included attacks on
13 American vessels in the North Atlantic; and

14 WHEREAS, the national mobilization for war included
15 a rapid and vigorous response by the State of Alabama, whose
16 National Guardsmen had recently returned from deployment on
17 the U.S. - Mexican border; and

18 WHEREAS, upon muster into federal service, the
19 storied 4th Alabama Infantry became the 167th U.S. Infantry
20 Regiment and absorbed additional servicemen from the 1st and
21 2nd Alabama Infantries and the 1st Alabama Cavalry to gain a
22 deployment strength of 3,677 men on its way to fierce fighting
23 in the Aisne-Marne and St. Mihiel offensives; and

24 WHEREAS, an additional 7,000 Alabamians volunteered
25 to don a uniform and 74,000 entered service through the draft;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, African American men from Alabama, though
2 deprived of civil rights at home, served their country with
3 distinction in segregated units including the highly decorated
4 366th Infantry Regiment, which was heavily populated by
5 Alabamians; and

6 WHEREAS, Alabama women trained in nursing at St.
7 Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham and at Tuskegee Institute
8 served both overseas and on the home front, binding wounds and
9 treating the victims of an international influenza epidemic
10 that killed nearly 5,500 people in Alabama in 1918; and

11 WHEREAS, Alabama hosted vital training facilities
12 including Camp Sheridan, Taylor Field, and Aviation Repair and
13 Engine Depot No. 3 in Montgomery; Camp McClellan in Anniston;
14 and Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay; and

15 WHEREAS, Alabama supplied the war effort with food,
16 timber, textiles, iron, ships, and the construction of Wilson
17 Dam and two nitrate plants in the Tennessee Valley; and

18 WHEREAS, Alabamians from all walks of life
19 contributed to the war effort at home by promoting war bonds,
20 raising Victory Gardens, providing social opportunity for
21 troops in training, making bandages and blankets, and
22 collecting books and phonographs for troops overseas; and

23 WHEREAS, by war's end, 95,000 Alabamians served and
24 6,262 gave their lives in support of victory during the war
25 that made the United States a world power; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2018, Alabama will remember the
27 service and sacrifice of its citizens one century ago by

1 honoring their courage and sense of duty to community and
2 nation; and

3 WHEREAS, the Alabama World War I Centennial
4 Committee seeks to promote awareness of the significance of
5 World War I and to promote commemorative activities in
6 communities throughout the state; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That our state's communities,
9 organizations, and classrooms commit themselves to honoring
10 those achievements through programs of commemoration and
11 remembrance throughout the centennial period.