

**No. R-314. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the World War I Armistice.**

(H.C.R.249)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Canfield of Fair Haven, Helm of Fair Haven, Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lewis of Berlin, and Savage of Swanton

Offered by: Senators Nitka, Benning, Branagan, Brock, Collamore, and Sears

Whereas, on July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, starting World War I, and soon much of Europe was militarily engaged, and

Whereas, America remained neutral, but on February 2, 1915, German saboteurs damaged a U.S.-Canadian railroad bridge, and on May 7, 1915, 128 Americans died as Germany torpedoed the British ocean liner Lusitania, and

Whereas, on February 3, 1917, the United States severed diplomatic relations with Germany due to a revived German U-Boat campaign in the Atlantic; and on February 5, 1917, the General Assembly of the State of Vermont adopted a joint resolution supporting this diplomatic decision; and further, on March 15, 1917, the General Assembly adopted a second joint resolution of support, and

Whereas, on April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson addressed a joint session of Congress requesting a Declaration of War that Congress quickly adopted and that he signed on April 6, 1917, and

Whereas, on April 5, 1917, the Vermont General Assembly adopted joint resolutions supporting national defense and universal military training, and

Whereas, during the following 19 months, members of the Vermont National Guard fought bravely in France at Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Île-de-France, and Lorraine, and

Whereas, Corporal Leonard Antoine Lord of Swanton was the first Vermonter killed in Action on April 12, 1918 at Bois Brulé in France, and

Whereas, nine officers and 160 enlisted men from Vermont were killed in action during the war, and hundreds more Vermont soldiers died from wounds or disease, and overall, millions of military personnel and civilians perished prior to the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (November 11, 1918) when the Armistice of Compiègne was signed and hostilities ceased, and

Whereas, in 1938, Congress designated November 11, Armistice Day, as a federal holiday and in 1954 renamed it Veterans Day as it is observed today, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the World War I Armistice, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Major General Steven A. Cray, Adjutant and Inspector General of Vermont, the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs, the American Legion Department of Vermont, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Vermont.