

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BARNES.

0753H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to veterans week of service.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

1 **WHEREAS**, tens of millions of Americans have served in the United States Armed
2 Forces since the battles of Lexington and Concord, which started the American Revolutionary
3 War or the War of Independence, in 1775; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, the past and present sacrifices of each generation of American men and
6 women who served in the Armed Forces and the hundreds of thousands who gave their lives
7 to preserve our republic must and should be recognized and honored by all residents; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed November 11th as
10 Armistice Day to honor veterans who fought in World War I and commemorate the
11 implementation of an armistice between the Allies and Germany at the 11th hour on the 11th
12 day of November; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation that
15 changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, in 1968, the Congress of the United States passed legislation that
18 established the fourth Monday in October as the day to commemorate and honor the military
19 service of generations of American veterans; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, Congress again passed legislation that reverted the national
22 observance of Veterans Day back to November 11th; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, not unlike past generations of American veterans, some contemporary
25 members of our Armed Forces encounter unique and difficult circumstances when
26 transitioning from military to civilian life; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, to meet the unique needs of Vietnam-era veterans and servicemembers
29 returning from deployment in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Afghanistan, some
30 veterans continue to lead and serve through the establishment of charitable organizations; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, the Veterans Commission and many veteran service organizations in this
33 state provide essential housing, employment, education and training assistance, supportive
34 services, qualified referrals, and case management services to eligible veterans,
35 servicemembers, and their families with the goal of improving their self-sufficiency,
36 sustainability, and quality of life; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, according to the latest data, the veteran population in this state totals
39 nearly 443,000 veterans; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, there are many organizations in this state and nationwide that were
42 established by veterans to help veterans and as an extension of their legacy of service; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the recognition of Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to
45 thank veterans for their service and recognize their dedication to preserving our freedoms and
46 republic; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, our annual commemoration of Veterans Day still embodies the original
49 purpose of President Woodrow Wilson's official Armistice Day proclamation in November
50 1919, as a day of reflection "to be filled with the solemn pride in the heroism of those who
51 died in the country's service"; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, veterans serving veterans, inherent in the work of these kinds of
54 organizations, evidences the willingness of some veterans to continue to lead and answer the
55 call of service to our country, communities, and their peers; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, these organizations should be honored and recognized for their efforts to
58 improve the quality of life of veterans in this state:

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60 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
61 Representatives of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the
62 Senate concurring therein, hereby designate the week of November 4th through 11th each
63 year as "Veterans Week of Service" in Missouri to coincide with the annual Veterans Day
64 observance on November 11th; and

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66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all residents of this state are encouraged to
67 commemorate Veterans Day and Veterans Week of Service with solemn but thankful
68 reflection on the sacrifices and contributions of all veterans and the legacy of service many
69 veterans continue to make to our country, community, and peers in this state and nationwide;
70 and

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72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
73 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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