

2017 -- H 6092

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ENTRY
INTO WORLD WAR I ON APRIL 6, 1917**

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Solomon, Morgan, McLaughlin, and
Azzinaro

Date Introduced: April 06, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, April 6, 2017, marks the centennial anniversary of the United States of
2 America entering World War I, when Congress declared war on the German Empire; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island heeded the call to arms with 28,817 soldiers, approximately
4 the entire current population of the Town of Johnston, to serve in the Great War; and

5 WHEREAS, Battery "A", Rhode Island Field Artillery, expanded to form the 1st
6 Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, an element of the 26th "Yankee" Division during World War I,
7 and the coastal artillery companies, which were descended from infantry units, were mobilized in
8 1917 and were used to garrison Rhode Island's coastal defense forts for the duration of the war;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The battle flags carried by these units are on perpetual display at the Rhode
11 Island State House, but have recently been removed so they can be assessed and better preserved
12 for all time; and

13 WHEREAS, During World War I, with the Rhode Island National Guard deployed
14 overseas, the General Assembly established the Rhode Island State Guard, raising 18 companies
15 composed of 100 men each, and established a headquarters and supply company, a machine-gun
16 detachment and a sanitary detachment; and

17 WHEREAS, The day after the declaration of war, Rhode Island native George M. Cohan
18 wrote the anthem "Over There" warning Germans that the "Yanks are coming," which became the
19 most popular song of World War I, selling more than 2 million copies; and

1 WHEREAS, The USS Rhode Island, a ship whose bell now rests at the entrance to the
2 House Chamber, did duty as flagship of Battleship Division 3, Atlantic Fleet, after war was
3 declared; and

4 WHEREAS, Many Rhode Island civilians joined the war effort. Brown University
5 contributed three ambulances to the American Field Ambulance Service in France, forty staff
6 members of Rhode Island Hospital volunteered for service in the war, and the Providence Journal
7 started a tobacco fund for "Our Boys in France"; and

8 WHEREAS, When the Rhode Island General Assembly established the State Police in
9 1925, every single recruit was a veteran of the First World War, including the first State Police
10 Superintendent, who had developed his command and management skills while serving as a field
11 commander in France; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the United States of
14 America entering World War I. Furthermore, we take this time to remember the men and women
15 of Rhode Island who struggled so valiantly to preserve freedom; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to all Rhode Island general office holders, the
18 Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the Adjutant General of the Rhode Island National
19 Guard, and the Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police.

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