

CHAPTER 26**(HCR 59)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating April 6, 2017, as World War One Centennial Day in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, April 6, 2017, marks the centennial of America's declaration of war against Imperial Germany and the country's entry into the First World War; and

WHEREAS, men and women from the Commonwealth have served in the Armed Forces with distinction in the Great War and those that followed, and they continue to serve in defense of our freedoms today; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky was chosen as the site of one of only 16 World War One cantonments, Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, where more than 150,000 men trained for service in the war; and

WHEREAS, two men with Kentucky backgrounds were awarded the Medal of Honor for valorous service in World War One: Captain Samuel Woodfall, a resident of Fort Thomas, and Sergeant Willie Sandlin of Buckhorn. When General Pershing was asked to name the most gallant among all of America's heroes from the Great War, Captain Woodfall was among his selection; and

WHEREAS, at least six men from Kentucky served in the legendary United States Army unit nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters and were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the government of France for their valorous service in the war: Private Bert Beckham, Private Robert Wooten, Private Bradley Logan, and Private Ionia Harris, all of Shelbyville; Private Leonard Todd of Finchville; and Private John Ray Carter of Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky is home to legendary military units at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, as well as more than 300,000 veterans of all branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, Congress has officially created the World War One Centennial Commission to educate, commemorate, and honor this event in our history, and the Commonwealth has created the Kentucky World War One Centennial Committee to do the same; and

WHEREAS, nearly 100,000 Kentucky families were among the more than four million American families who sent their sons and daughters to serve in uniform during the Great War, with 116,516 soldiers giving their lives in combat, including 2,318 Kentuckians, and another 200,000 were wounded;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives encourages all citizens to remember and commemorate America's entry into the Great War and the sacrifices that awaited its citizens one hundred years ago.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives and Senate designate April 6, 2017, as World War One Centennial Day throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Signed by Governor March 20, 2017.