

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

WHEREAS, more than 4,000,000 Americans served in World War I; and

WHEREAS, there is no nationally recognized memorial honoring the service of those over 4,000,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1919, the people of Kansas City, Missouri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised more than \$2 million in two weeks for a memorial dedicated to the service of Americans who served in World War I. This fund was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States irrespective of population, and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, which had so recently ended; and

WHEREAS, following the drive, a national architectural competition was held by the American Institute of Architects for designs for a memorial dedicated to the service of Americans in World War I, and the competition yielded a design by Architect H. Van Buren Magonigle; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 1921, more than 100,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the dedication of the site on November 1, 1921 marked the only time in history that the five allied military leaders present, Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, and General of the Armies John J. Pershing of the United States of America, were together at one place; and

WHEREAS, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, a native of Missouri and the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, noted at the November 1, 1921 dedication that “the people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country’s armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, and appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited”; and

WHEREAS, during an Armistice Day ceremony in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of a three-year construction project for the Liberty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the 217 foot Liberty Memorial Tower has an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country”, as well as four stone “Guardian Spirits” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice, which rise above the observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served in World War I; and

WHEREAS, during a rededication of the Liberty Memorial in 1961, World War I veterans and former presidents Harry S Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the memorial as a constant reminder of the sacrifices during World War I and the progress that followed; and

WHEREAS, the 106th U.S. Congress recognized the Liberty Memorial as a national symbol of World War I; and

WHEREAS, the 108th U.S. Congress designated the museum at the base of the Liberty Memorial as “America’s National World War I Museum”; and

WHEREAS, the National World War I Museum is the only public museum in the United States specifically dedicated to the history of World War I; and

WHEREAS, the National World War I Museum is known throughout the world as a major center of World War I remembrance:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to designate the Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri, at the National World War I Museum as the National World War I Memorial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Secretary of the Interior and the members of the Missouri congressional delegation.