

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, on April 19, 1775, the Continental Army engaged in the first battles of the Revolutionary War, known as the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The battles marked the outbreak of open armed conflict between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen of its colonies on the mainland of British America to establish American independence; and

Whereas, the first Militia units, transforming into today's National Guard, were established in the Massachusetts Bay Colonies on December 13, 1636, armed to protect American citizens; and

Whereas, between 1775 and today over 41 million Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, in addition to countless Militiamen between 1636 and 1775; and

Whereas, the United States has suffered casualties of over 1.4 million men and women, including scores of Missouri citizens, who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending democracy and freedom; and

Whereas, the families who have lost immediate relatives in the support of military operations, known as Gold Star Families, are also tragedies of war and armed conflict; and

Whereas, the people of Missouri wish to properly honor our military men and women who gave their lives in the service of our country, and thank their families for their sacrifice and bravery, recognizing that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen; and

Whereas, war memorials perpetuate the appreciation and legacy of our fallen hero warriors and their families present and past and educate communities about the price paid for our way of life; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is to honor Gold Star families, relatives, and Gold Star children who have sacrificed and lost loved ones in the service of their country, and who stand as a stark reminder that freedom is not free; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor the fallen warriors and their families from the state of Missouri by recognizing the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which is to be constructed on the College of the Ozarks campus, as the official Gold Star Families Memorial Monument of the state of Missouri:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which is to be constructed on the College of the Ozarks campus in Point Lookout, Missouri, as the official Gold Star Families Memorial Monument of Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Department of Transportation is urged to prepare and establish appropriate highway signage to recognize the location and direction to the Missouri Gold Star Families Memorial Monument; such highway signage and any additional signs shall be paid for by the College of the Ozarks; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the president of the College of the Ozarks, the Veterans and Military Coalition of the Ozarks in Branson, Missouri, and the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Resolution

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