

By: Price

H.R. No. 2711

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On November 11, 2018, this nation is commemorating  
2 the centennial of the end of World War I, one of the greatest  
3 conflicts in human history, and one in which Texans distinguished  
4 themselves through their patriotism, courage, and dedication to  
5 duty; and

6           WHEREAS, Between 1914 and 1918, the Allied Powers, ultimately  
7 composed chiefly of the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and the  
8 United States, engaged in a titanic struggle against the Central  
9 Powers, whose members included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria,  
10 and the Ottoman Empire; in Europe, where most of the fighting took  
11 place, combat soon devolved into the brutal stalemate of trench  
12 warfare, subjecting troops on both sides to months on end of mud and  
13 disease, as they faced each other across the blasted ground between  
14 the trenches known as "No Man's Land"; and

15           WHEREAS, World War I was the first conflict to see the  
16 widespread use of machine guns, combat aircraft, tanks, submarines,  
17 and biological and chemical weapons; especially in the early years  
18 of the war, the deadly combination of 20th-century technology and  
19 19th-century military tactics resulted in unprecedented carnage;  
20 battles dragged on for months, with the Battle of the Somme, between  
21 July and November 1916, claiming more than 1.5 million men killed or  
22 wounded; and

23           WHEREAS, The United States entered World War I in April 1917,  
24 and the State of Texas played a significant role in the American war

1 effort; members of the Texas National Guard formed the core of the  
2 famed 36th Infantry Division, also known as the Texas Division,  
3 which fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in October 1918; nearly  
4 200,000 Texans took part in the war, including 450 Texas women who  
5 served as nurses, and many other Americans received their training  
6 in the Lone Star State; a number of present-day airports across  
7 Texas were originally established as training fields for World War  
8 I aviators; and

9       WHEREAS, By the end of the war on November 11, 1918, four  
10 million Americans had served in the victorious Allied war effort,  
11 and more than 116,700 had made the ultimate sacrifice, including  
12 over 5,000 Texans; today, their service is honored by memorials  
13 across the state and by the World War I monument on the grounds of  
14 the State Capitol; a particularly special memorial is the "Merci  
15 Boxcar" at Camp Mabry in Austin, one of 49 railway cars presented to  
16 each American state and, jointly, to the District of Columbia and  
17 the territory of Hawaii, by France in 1949, in gratitude for the  
18 provision of relief supplies after World War II and for the service  
19 of Americans on French soil in World Wars I and II; such boxcars  
20 were well-known to the many American veterans of both wars who rode  
21 in them for as long as a week at a time, as they traveled to or from  
22 the battlefield; and

23       WHEREAS, The effects of the Great War were far reaching;  
24 roughly 15 to 18 million people perished during the conflict,  
25 including as many as 8 million civilians; in addition, the defeat of  
26 the Central Powers resulted in the dismantling of the German,  
27 Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman Empires, while the Russian Empire

1 dissolved with the overthrow of the czar in 1917, during a  
2 revolution stoked, in part, by that country's disastrous wartime  
3 experience; the end of the war also saw the debut of the United  
4 States as a global power, one whose citizen-soldiers had answered  
5 the call to duty in defense of the principles of liberty,  
6 self-determination, and a just peace; now, therefore, be it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of  
9 World War I.