

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

19-150

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 1, 2011

To acknowledge and promote the continued status of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a local District memorial on the National Mall.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia War Memorial was the first war memorial to be erected in West Potomac Park, in 1931,, and recognizes the 26,000 Washingtonians who served in World War I and the 499 who were killed;

WHEREAS, it now has become a symbol of the responsibilities of citizenship that District of Columbia residents share with the citizens of the 50 states;

WHEREAS, there is strong support among many local organizations in favor of the District of Columbia War Memorial remaining solely as a memorial dedicated to District of Columbia residents who served in World War I;

WHEREAS, the Commemorative Works Act, sections 8908 and 8905, prohibit future memorials on the Mall and encroachments on existing memorials on the Mall, it would seem that this well-established policy should not be circumvented, particularly when a reasonable alternative site is available for a national World War I memorial in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, there is no doubt about the significance of World War I and the profound affect it had on the United States and, like the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and World War II, it is therefore fitting that a national World War I memorial should be established here;

WHEREAS, Pershing Park, located on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the White House, was built by the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1981 and that the official name of the park is the "American Expeditionary Forces Memorial" ("AEF Memorial"), and as it commemorates the 2 million American military personnel who served in the AEF in World War I and the Commander in Chief, General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, who led those forces in that war; and

WHEREAS, it is agreed that there should be a national World War I memorial in the District of Columbia, it is believed that the American Expeditionary Forces Memorial (in Pershing Park) would offer an excellent alternative for such a memorial rather than changing the name and use of the District of Columbia World War Memorial.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia War Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2011”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia heartily supports the continued status of the District of Columbia World War Memorial as a local memorial honoring Washingtonians who served in World War I and who died serving their country and it strongly recommends that Pershing Park be considered as the future site of a national World War I memorial that is to be established and located in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.