

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To urge promotion of Pershing Park as a National World War I Memorial and continue to recognize and acknowledge the District of Columbia War Memorial as the District's memorial on the National Mall.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia War Memorial was the first war memorial to be erected in West Potomac Park and recognizes the 26,000 Washingtonians who served in World War I and the 499 who were killed and whose names are so inscribed without regard to rank, race or gender;

WHEREAS, while a Congressional Resolution introduced in 1920 did not pass until June 7, 1924, it was through the generosity of District residents, school children and business leaders that the funds were raised for construction;

WHEREAS, though it is agreed that there should be a national memorial in honor of World War I, it is felt that Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue, near The White House, would offer a fitting alternative;

WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton has publicly supported Pershing Park as a National World War I Memorial in her remarks at the Nov. 10, 2011 rededication of the DC War Memorial and at her press conference of January 23, 2012;

WHEREAS, Pershing Park was built by the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1981, the official name of the Park is the American Expeditionary Forces Memorial (AEF) and it commemorates the two million American military personnel and the Commander in Chief, General of the Armies, John J. Pershing who lead the AEF of World War I;

WHEREAS, Pershing Park already contains many attractive elements to commemorate the AEF including a handsome sculpture of their leader General Pershing, detailed maps and descriptions of significant military campaigns, an attractive water feature, seating and lighting it could be modestly improved to include additional interpretive elements such as waysides, a sculpture to depict the personnel of various branches of service and models or reproductions of period tanks or armaments;

1           WHEREAS, there is no doubt about the importance of World War I and the profound  
2 affect it had on the United States. Like the Korean and Vietnam wars and World War II are  
3 deserving of major memorials in Washington, D.C., it is fitting that a national World War I  
4 memorial should be established in the National's Capital;

5           WHEREAS, the Commemorative Works Act, Sections 8908 and 8905 prohibit future  
6 memorials on the Mall and encroachments on existing memorials on the Mall thus it would seem  
7 that this well-established policy should not be circumvented, particularly when a reasonable  
8 alternative can be found, in Pershing Park; and

9           WHEREAS, there is strong support among many local organizations in favor of  
10 advocating that the District of Columbia War Memorial remain solely a memorial dedicated to  
11 DC residents who served in World War I.

12           RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
13 resolution be cited as the "District of Columbia Memorial Day Resolution of 2012".

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15           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia heartily supports the continued status of  
16 the District of Columbia World War Memorial as a local memorial honoring Washingtonians  
17 who served in a World War I and those Washingtonians who died serving their country.  
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19           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
20 the District of Columbia Register.  
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