

**RESOLUTION**

**Expressing gratitude and appreciation of the French Senate for the entry of the United States of America into World War I**

*Whereas, on April 2, 1917, President Thomas Woodrow WILSON asked both houses of Congress of the United States of America, convened to an extraordinary session, to officially declare war on the German Empire; on April 4, 1917, the US Senate passed a resolution proclaiming a formal state of war between the United States and the German Empire; on April 6, 1917 the US House of Representatives passed the same resolution, thus enacting the official entry of the United States of America into World War I ; on December 7, 1917, the United States declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire;*

*Whereas, consequently, April 6, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the entry of the United States of America into World War I beside the countries of the Triple Entente;*

*Whereas, since August 1914, a portion of the French territory had been occupied by the German forces and, in Spring 2017, the French Republic and the populations of its associated territories were fighting beside their Allies: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, all Nations of the British Empire, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Russia and Serbia, on earth, at sea and in the air, along a front line of more than 750km, to recover full sovereignty;*

*Whereas before April 6, 1917, the United-States of America had been involved in the economic and financial support of France and its Allies, as well as in human support through 3 600 voluntary American men and women, soldiers of the Foreign Legion and ambulance attendants, nurses and philanthropists;*

*Whereas the US expeditionary force was created on May 3, 1917, under General John J. PERSHING's command, to support France and its Allies by military means;*

*Whereas the United States of America started huge mobilization efforts after Congress passed the Selective Service Act on May 18, 1917, thus introducing military conscription and enabling 4 800 000 American men to serve during World War I;*

*Whereas the first forces of General PERSHING's expeditionary corps arrived quickly in France: General Pershing himself landing in Boulogne-sur-Mer on June 13, 1917, 14 750 men of the First Division landing in Saint-Nazaire on June 26, 1917 and 7500 soldiers landing in Brest on November 12, 1917 ;*

*Whereas American troops have been involved in a considerable logistics effort in France, building many transportation infrastructures (roads, harbors and railways), communication networks and accommodation buildings which have been crucial for the war effort and the transformation of France's landscapes;*

*Whereas a debt of gratitude is owed to the three American soldiers who first fell on the French territory during the first combat of the American forces in Bathelémont-lès-Bauzemont (near Lunéville) on November 3, 1917;*

*Whereas the whole American society, including Afro-Americans, Hispanics and people of the First Nations, was involved in logistics support or fights on the French soil between 1917 and 1918;*

*Whereas President Thomas Woodrow WILSON has been deeply involved in the peace processes in Europe, mainly through his speech in front the US Congress on January 8, 1918, whose 14 points have been proposed as a ground for negotiation at the Versailles Peace Conference starting on January 18, 1919;*

*Whereas around two million American soldiers fought in France and 116 510 died during the war, among them 53 402 being killed in action on the French territory during the 1918 battles, such as the Bois-Belleau (Aisne) battle, the Saint-Mihiel (Meuse) battle and in Meuse-Argonne;*

*Whereas numerous clues of the American military action in France remain, through buildings and memorials;*

*Whereas the French people is still grateful when remembering the sacrifice of American soldiers during World War I; Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved, That the Senate —*

- 1. Recognizes the 100th anniversary of the official entry of the United States of America into World War I on April 6, 1917;*
- 2. Expresses gratitude and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in World War I operations alongside the countries of the Triple Entente;*
- 3. Expresses gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Allied Forces who participated in World War I operations alongside France, from 1914 until the end of the war.;*
- 4. Requests centenary commemorations to honor people from France, the United States of America and all warring countries with the aim of making future generations aware of the acts of heroism and sacrifice performed by American and Allied forces;*
- 5. Recognizes efforts undertaken by France, especially by port cities on the Atlantic coast and by the Hauts-de-France, Bretagne, Loire-Atlantique, Aquitaine, Centre and Grand-Est regions to preserve the memory and celebrate the legacy of the American involvement during World War I;*
- 6. Requests the French people to celebrate this anniversary with commemorations and relevant programs to expresses gratitude to those men and women who helped restore hope among Allied forces;*
- 7. Requests the French people, during the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, to expresses gratitude and appreciation to every military force which fought alongside France, inside or outside its territory, during World War I; to every man and woman who died fighting or was injured by the hostilities, whether in their body or in their soul;*
- 8. Requests every single warring country to be involved in the centenary of the Armistice in 2018 in the best possible manner.*