

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

2 INTRODUCED BY W. MCKAMEY

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND RECOGNIZING THE
6 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN OUR STATE.

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8 WHEREAS, on Veterans' Day, 2018, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the
9 world commemorated the 100th anniversary of the armistice ending the fighting in World War I; and

10 WHEREAS, World War I veterans registering concern over the care of those returning from the
11 battlefields delineated plans for the development of a veterans' association, resulting in the Paris Caucus held
12 on March 15, 1919, and the birth of The American Legion; and

13 WHEREAS, the Paris Caucus resulted in a declaration of basic tenants that ultimately became the
14 preamble of the constitution for The American Legion, which declares that The American Legion is "a patriotic
15 organization dedicated to serve God and country"; and

16 WHEREAS, as a primary catalyst for the Paris Caucus, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. became known
17 as the father of The American Legion; and

18 WHEREAS, we also acknowledge that there was one Montanan in attendance at the Paris Caucus,
19 Walter L. Verge of Choteau; and

20 WHEREAS, a call by local Montana veterans' associations for a state organizational meeting resulted
21 in the convening of the Helena Caucus on March 4, 1919, with delegates from across the state; and

22 WHEREAS, the Helena Caucus urged that the governor appoint a Veterans' Welfare Commission to be
23 headquartered in Helena, which is now known as the state Board of Veterans' Affairs, which oversees the
24 Montana Veterans' Affairs Division; and

25 WHEREAS, Malta was chosen as the location for the first annual state convention of the World War
26 Veterans of Montana, which was held on June 30 and July 1, 1919; and

27 WHEREAS, convention business based on the four pillars of supporting veterans, Americanism, national
28 defense, and children and youth included choosing to rename the World War Veterans of Montana to The
29 American Legion of Montana;

30 WHEREAS, the Montana Department of The American Legion has for the past 100 years been a positive

1 force in communities throughout the state by promoting citizenship among our youth and continuing to serve
2 Montana veterans and their families.

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4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 STATE OF MONTANA:

6 That the years 2019 and 2020 be recognized as the Centennial of the Montana Department of The
7 American Legion and that communities across Montana be encouraged to recognize and celebrate the service
8 and many contributions of the more than 12,000 members of The American Legion in Montana.

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