

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17
2 INTRODUCED BY M. FOX
3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA RECOGNIZING MONTANANS WHO HAVE SERVED AND CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE
6 MILITARY AND DECLARING 2023-2025 AS THE ERA OF RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
7 MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD, MONTANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD, U.S. ARMY RESERVE, U.S. NAVY
8 RESERVE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE, AND ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL.
9

10 WHEREAS, on July 14, 1867, Montana Territorial Governor Green Clay Smith issued General Order
11 No. 1 in Virginia City, officially authorizing the organization of Montana volunteer forces and formally naming
12 them the First Regiment of Montana Volunteers; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1885, U.S. House Bill No. 20 passed, authorizing the organization of a national guard for
14 the territory, and the 1st Montana Infantry Regiment, National Guard, mustered its first company in Virginia City;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the need for a state militia was recognized, and accordingly, the 1st Montana Infantry
17 Regiment was reorganized as the Montana National Guard under the Territorial Legislative Act entitled "An Act
18 to Organize and Regulate the Militia, Approved March 10, 1887"; and

19 WHEREAS, on May 2, 1898, the 1st Montana Infantry Regiment volunteered as United States
20 volunteers, and under the command of Colonel Harry C. Kessler, the regiment served in the Spanish-American
21 War and subsequently in the Philippine Insurrection in 1898-1899, in which it participated in seven major battles
22 as part of the overall command of Major General Arthur MacArthur; and

23 WHEREAS, the 2nd Montana Infantry Regiment, as successor to the 1st Montana Infantry Regiment,
24 participated in the Mexican Border Conflict in 1916, and under the command of Colonel "Dynamite" Dan J.
25 Donohue, its mission was to protect border towns and U.S. holdings along the Arizona border; and

26 WHEREAS, on August 5, 1917, the 2nd Montana Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the 163rd
27 Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, and went on to fight in World War I along with many fellow Montanans
28 who volunteered or were conscripted to serve, and according to Joseph Kinsey Howard, "In World War I, more

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mike Fox - (S) State Administration

68th Legislature - 2023

Drafter: Joe Carroll, 406-444-3804

SJ0017.001.001

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

3 That the 68th Legislature of the State of Montana recognizes the many Montanans who have served in
4 the past and who currently serve to make Montana and the United States a better place to live.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature declare that 2023-2025 be recognized as the Era of
6 Recognition and Commemoration of the Montana National Guard, Montana Air National Guard, U.S. Army
7 Reserve, U.S. Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and the many active duty military personnel in service to
8 their nation and encourage that expressions of recognition be afforded to all currently serving and military
9 veterans of Montana.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the
11 Governor of Montana, the Department Commander of the American Legion of Montana, the State Commander,
12 the State Senior Vice Commander, the State Junior Vice Commander, and the State Adjutant/Quartermaster of
13 the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Montana, the State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of
14 Montana, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, each of the federally recognized tribal governments in Montana,
15 and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

16 - END -