

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1843

A RESOLUTION recognizing Emporia veterans and honoring Veterans Day.

WHEREAS, In 1953, Alvin J. King of Emporia proposed that Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to recognize and honor all veterans from all wars and conflicts. Although Alvin King was only 15 years old when the United States went to war in 1917 and never served in the Armed Forces, he had a deep respect for veterans. Alvin King lost John Cooper, a stepson that he raised, who was killed-in-action in Belgium during World War II while serving with Rifle Company B of the 137th Infantry Regiment. Subsequently he developed friendships with the surviving members of Rifle Company B of the 137th Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1950's, Alvin King suggested either creating a special day to honor all veterans or adopting Armistice Day so that it was dedicated to all veterans because, at that time, Armistice Day honored the veterans of World War I. By 1953, the community of Emporia had raised enough money to send Alvin King and his wife, Gertrude, to Washington, D.C. to garner support for an official veterans day. Alvin King had a friend and supporter in United States Representative Ed Rees of Emporia who was strongly in favor of King's idea and said "it would give the holiday a new meaning and more widespread patriotic observance"; and

WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, stating with respect to that day, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain"; and

WHEREAS, Emporia area men and women, time and again, have answered the call to arms and put their lives at risk to defend our nation's interests and the cause of freedom around the world. They have proudly worn the American uniforms of freedom and democracy guided by a simple credo exemplified by the words duty, honor and country, which to them has real meaning. As veterans, they love their country dearly and stand behind all the good that our nation represents. They also take pride in knowing that no other group of Americans has done more for our country and our freedom: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize and honor the men and women of the Emporia community who have served in our nation's military forces and ask that all Kansans observe Veterans Day; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Barnett.

Senate Resolution No. 1843 was sponsored by Senator Jim Barnett.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.