

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 195

Expressing the sense of Congress that a minute of silence should be observed annually at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, in honor of the veterans of all United States wars and to memorialize those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BERRY, Mr. FROST, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. STRICKLAND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that a minute of silence should be observed annually at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, in honor of the veterans of all United States wars and to memorialize those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of the United States.

Whereas Reverend George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling, and Father John Washington served aboard the USAT Dorchester during World War II;

Whereas Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling, and Father Washington were referred to as the “Four Chaplains”;

Whereas, on February 3, 1943, the Dorchester was hit by an enemy torpedo and began to sink;

Whereas in the face of grave danger the Four Chaplains sought to calm and reassure the men on board;

Whereas the Four Chaplains handed out lifejackets and directed the frightened men to lifeboats;

Whereas when the last lifejacket had been handed out, the Four Chaplains removed their own lifejackets and gave them to four men who had none;

Whereas the Dorchester sank and took with her 672 men and the Four Chaplains, who stood arm in arm with their heads bowed in prayer and went down with the ship;

Whereas none of the Four Chaplains inquired about whether the young man to whom he gave his lifejacket was a member of his own faith;

Whereas the Four Chaplains will remain forever in the memories of Americans as an example of the kind of heroism which has always characterized the best of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the sacrifice of the Four Chaplains stand as a testimony to all heroic veterans who have fought for the United States;

Whereas each year on November 11 the United States pays tribute to its war dead and veterans in a national observance known as Veterans Day; and

Whereas a national minute of silence observed annually at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, would pro-

vide the people of the United States with an opportunity to honor the veterans of all United States wars and memorialize those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that a minute
3 of silence should be observed annually at 11:00 a.m. on
4 Veterans Day, November 11, in honor of the veterans of
5 all United States wars and to memorialize those members
6 of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense
7 of the United States.

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