

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2216

To provide for greater recognition of Veterans Day each year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. BACA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide for greater recognition of Veterans Day each
year.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Veterans of service in the Armed Forces
6 have served the Nation with honor and at great per-
7 sonal sacrifice.

8 (2) The American people owe the security of
9 the Nation to those who have defended it.

1 (3) On Memorial Day each year, the Nation
2 honors those who lost their lives in service to the
3 Nation.

4 (4) On Veterans Day each year, the Nation
5 honors those who have defended democracy by serv-
6 ing in the Armed Forces.

7 (5) The observance of Memorial Day and Vet-
8 erans Day is an expression of faith in democracy,
9 faith in American values, and faith that those who
10 fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is
11 unjust.

12 (6) Section 116(a) of title 36, United States
13 Code, provides that “The last Monday in May is Me-
14 morial Day” and section 116(b) of that title re-
15 quests the President to issue a proclamation each
16 year—

17 (A) calling on the people of the United
18 States to observe Memorial Day by praying, ac-
19 cording to their individual religious faith, for
20 permanent peace;

21 (B) designating a period of time on Memo-
22 rial Day during which the people may unite in
23 prayer for a permanent peace;

24 (C) calling on the people of the United
25 States to unite in prayer at that time; and

1 (D) calling on the media to join in observ-
2 ing Memorial Day and the period of prayer.

3 (7) Section 4 of the National Moment of Re-
4 membrance Act (Public Law 106–579) provides,
5 “The minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. (local time) on
6 Memorial Day each year is designated as the ‘Na-
7 tional Moment of Remembrance’”.

8 (8) Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States
9 Code, provides that “Memorial Day, the last Monday
10 in May” and “Veteran’s Day, November 11” are
11 legal public holidays.

12 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ACTIVI-**
13 **TIES RELATING TO VETERANS DAY.**

14 Congress—

15 (1) encourages Americans to demonstrate their
16 support for veterans on Veterans Day each year by
17 treating that day as a special day of reflection; and

18 (2) encourages houses of worship and other in-
19 stitutions to ring bells at 11:00 AM (local time) on
20 Veterans Day each year and the American people to
21 then observe a moment of reflection in recognition of
22 those persons who have served as members of the
23 Armed Forces.

1 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.**

2 The President is authorized and requested to issue
3 a proclamation each year in connection with the observ-
4 ance of Veterans Day calling on the people of the United
5 States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies
6 and activities.

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