

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6960

To establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I.

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 finds that—

5               (1) more than 4,000,000 men and women from  
6       the United States served in uniform in the defense  
7       of liberty during World War I, among them two fu-  
8       ture presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D.  
9       Eisenhower;

1           (2) 2,000,000 individuals from the United  
2 States served overseas during World War I, includ-  
3 ing 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas;

4           (3) the United States suffered 375,000 casual-  
5 ties during World War I;

6           (4) the events of 1914 through 1918 shaped the  
7 world, our country, and the lives of millions of peo-  
8 ple in countless ways;

9           (5) the centennial of World War I offers an op-  
10 portunity for people in the United States to learn  
11 about the sacrifices of their predecessors;

12           (6) commemorative efforts allow people in the  
13 United States to gain a historical understanding of  
14 the type of conflicts that cause countries to go to  
15 war and how those conflicts are resolved;

16           (7) Kansas City is home to America's National  
17 World War I Museum, as so recognized in the Ron-  
18 ald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act  
19 for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375);

20           (8) America's National World War I Museum  
21 seeks—

22                   (A) to preserve the history of World War  
23 I; and

1 (B) to educate and enlighten people about  
2 this significant event, the consequences of which  
3 are still with us;

4 (9) Kansas City is home to the national head-  
5 quarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

6 (10) Missouri is the home State of General  
7 John Joseph Pershing, who commanded the Amer-  
8 ican Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World  
9 War I;

10 (11) the Kansas City area is the home of the  
11 Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum;  
12 and

13 (12) the Dwight David Eisenhower Presidential  
14 Library and Museum is located close to Kansas City  
15 in the neighboring State of Kansas.

16 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission,  
18 in Kansas City, Missouri, on the centennial of World War  
19 I to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of  
20 World War I that promotes the values of honor, courage,  
21 patriotism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representa-  
22 tion of these values through the four Guardian Spirits  
23 sculpted on the Liberty Memorial Monument at America's  
24 National World War I Museum.

1 **SEC. 3. COMMISSION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**  
2 **CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission  
4 to be known as the World War I Centennial Commission  
5 (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

6 (b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall have the fol-  
7 lowing duties:

8 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs,  
9 projects, and activities to commemorate the centen-  
10 nial of World War I.

11 (2) To encourage private organizations and  
12 State and local governments to organize and partici-  
13 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of  
14 World War I.

15 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities  
16 throughout the United States related to the centen-  
17 nial of World War I.

18 (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collec-  
19 tion and dissemination of information about events  
20 and plans for the centennial of World War I.

21 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-  
23 mission shall be composed of 24 members as follows:

24 (A) Four members appointed by the  
25 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (B) Three members appointed by the mi-  
2 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

3 (C) Four members appointed by the Sen-  
4 ate majority leader.

5 (D) Three members appointed by the Sen-  
6 ate minority leader.

7 (E) Seven members who are broadly rep-  
8 resentative of the people of the United States  
9 (including members of the armed services and  
10 veterans), appointed by the President.

11 (F) The executive director of the Veterans  
12 of Foreign Wars of the United States (or the  
13 director's delegate).

14 (G) The executive director of the American  
15 Legion (or the director's delegate).

16 (H) The president of the Liberty Memorial  
17 Association, the nonprofit entity responsible for  
18 the management of America's National World  
19 War I Museum (or the president's delegate).

20 (2) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a  
21 member of the Commission under paragraph (1)(F)  
22 through (H) ceases to hold a position named in such  
23 paragraph, that member must resign from the Com-  
24 mission as of the date that the member ceases to  
25 hold that position.

1           (3) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed  
2 for the life of the Commission.

3           (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission  
4 shall be filled in the manner in which the original  
5 appointment was made.

6           (5) PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

7           (6) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall  
8 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of  
9 subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provi-  
10 sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
11 United States Code.

12           (7) QUORUM.—Thirteen members of the Com-  
13 mission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-  
14 ber may hold hearings.

15           (8) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
16 Commission shall elect the Chairperson and Vice  
17 Chairperson of the Commission.

18           (9) MEETINGS.—

19           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
20 meet at the call of the Chairperson, except that  
21 the first meeting shall be held before the end of  
22 the 30-day period beginning on the effective  
23 date of this Act.

24           (B) LOCATION.—The Commission shall  
25 hold the first meeting at America's National

1           World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri,  
2           and thereafter shall hold at least one meeting  
3           per year at such location.

4           (d) DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE  
5 COMMISSION; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

6           (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

7           (A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chair of the  
8 Commission shall, in consultation with the  
9 members of the Commission, appoint an execu-  
10 tive director and such other additional per-  
11 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Com-  
12 mission to perform its duties.

13           (B) PAY.—

14           (i) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The execu-  
15 tive director shall be paid at a rate not to  
16 exceed the rate of basic pay payable for  
17 level IV of the Executive Schedule estab-  
18 lished under section 5315 of title 5, United  
19 State Code.

20           (ii) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The  
21 executive director may fix the pay of any  
22 additional personnel appointed under sub-  
23 paragraph (A) as the executive director  
24 considers appropriate.

1           (C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-  
2           ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the non-  
3           profit organization which administers America’s  
4           National World War I Museum make space  
5           available, the executive director and any addi-  
6           tional personnel appointed under subparagraph  
7           (A) shall work in the building that houses that  
8           museum.

9           (2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Com-  
10          mission may procure temporary and intermittent  
11          services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
12          States Code.

13          (3) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-  
14          quest of the Commission, the head of any Federal  
15          department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable  
16          basis, any personnel of that department or agency to  
17          the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties  
18          under this Act.

19          (e) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

20          (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—For the pur-  
21          pose of carrying out this Act, the Commission may  
22          hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take  
23          testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission  
24          considers appropriate.

1           (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—If  
2 authorized by the Commission, any member or agent  
3 of the Commission may take any action which the  
4 Commission is authorized to take by this section.

5           (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commis-  
6 sion shall secure directly from any department or  
7 agency of the United States information necessary  
8 to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon the request  
9 of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of  
10 that department or agency shall furnish that infor-  
11 mation to the Commission.

12           (4) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—

13           (A) ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.—The  
14 Commission may accept, use, and dispose of  
15 gifts, bequests, or devises of services or prop-  
16 erty, both real and personal, for the purpose of  
17 aiding or facilitating the work of the Commis-  
18 sion.

19           (B) DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.—Gifts,  
20 bequests, or devises of money and proceeds  
21 from sales of other property received as gifts,  
22 bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the  
23 Treasury and shall be available for disburse-  
24 ment upon order of the Commission.

1           (5) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the  
2 United States mails in the same manner and under  
3 the same conditions as other departments and agen-  
4 cies of the United States.

5           (6) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—  
6 Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-  
7 trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-  
8 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative  
9 support services necessary for the Commission to  
10 carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

11           (7) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—The Commission  
12 is authorized to procure supplies, services, and prop-  
13 erty and to make or enter in contracts, leases, or  
14 other legal agreements; except that any contract,  
15 lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into  
16 by the Commission may not extend beyond the date  
17 of termination of the Commission.

18           (f) **REPORTS.**—

19           (1) **PERIODIC REPORT.**—Beginning not later  
20 than the last day of the 3-month period beginning  
21 on the date of enactment of this Act and the last  
22 day of each 3-month period thereafter, the Commis-  
23 sion shall submit to Congress and the President a  
24 report on the activities and plans of the Commission.

1           (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2  
2           years after the effective date of this Act, the Com-  
3           mission shall submit to Congress and the President  
4           a report containing specific recommendations for  
5           commemorating the centennial of World War I and  
6           coordinating related activities.

7           (g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
8           on the earlier of the date that is 30 days after the activi-  
9           ties honoring the centennial observation of World War I  
10          are carried out or July 28, 2019. Section 14(a)(2)(B) of  
11          the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), re-  
12          lating to the termination of advisory committees, shall not  
13          apply to the Commission.

14          (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall be effective on  
15          January 1, 2010.

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