

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 26

To provide for the appointment of Ulysses S. Grant to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 21), 2021

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the appointment of Ulysses S. Grant to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “Ulysses
5 S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On March 3, 1799, Congress created the
9 grade of “General of the Armies of the United
10 States” as the commander of the Army of the

1 United States (5th Congress, Session III, Chap. 48,
2 Section 9).

3 (2) On March 16, 1802, Congress effectively
4 dissolved the grade of General of the Armies of the
5 United States when it passed the Military Peace Es-
6 tablishment Act without reference to the grade (7th
7 Congress, Session I, Chap. 9, Sec. 3).

8 (3) On July 1, 1843, Ulysses S. Grant grad-
9 uated from the United States Military Academy at
10 West Point, and, on July 31, 1854, Grant resigned
11 from the Army at the grade of Captain.

12 (4) Following President Abraham Lincoln's
13 April 15, 1861, proclamation calling for 75,000 vol-
14 unteers to suppress Confederate forces, Ulysses S.
15 Grant rejoined the Army and helped recruit and
16 train volunteer soldiers for the Union.

17 (5) Over the course of the American Civil War,
18 Ulysses S. Grant commanded a cumulative total of
19 over 620,000 Union soldiers and achieved major vic-
20 tories including Fort Henry (February 1862), Fort
21 Donelson (February 1862), Shiloh (April 1862), the
22 Vicksburg Campaign (November 1862–July 1863),
23 Chattanooga (November 1863), the Wilderness Cam-
24 paign (May 1864–June 1864), the Petersburg Cam-

1 paign (June 1864–April 1865), and the Appomattox
2 Campaign (April 1865).

3 (6) On February 29, 1864, Congress reestab-
4 lished the grade of “Lieutenant-General of the
5 United States Army” and authorized the President
6 to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of
7 the Senate, an officer who was “most distinguished
8 for courage, skill, and ability” (38th Congress, Ses-
9 sion I, Chap. 14, Sec. 1); that same day, President
10 Abraham Lincoln nominated Ulysses S. Grant to be
11 Lieutenant-General.

12 (7) On March 10, 1864, President Abraham
13 Lincoln formally appointed Ulysses S. Grant to the
14 grade of Lieutenant-General of the Army, a position
15 previously held by only George Washington and Win-
16 field Scott, although Scott’s promotion was a brevet
17 appointment.

18 (8) On July 25, 1866, Congress established the
19 grade of “General of the Army of the United
20 States” (39th Congress, Session I, Chap. 232), and
21 Ulysses S. Grant was appointed, by and with the ad-
22 vice and consent of the Senate, to General of the
23 Army of the United States for his role in com-
24 manding the Union armies during the Civil War.

1 (9) On March 4, 1869, Ulysses S. Grant was
2 sworn in as the 18th President of the United States.

3 (10) Throughout his two terms as President,
4 Ulysses S. Grant secured the ratification of the 15th
5 amendment to the Constitution, the creation of the
6 Department of Justice, and the passage and imple-
7 mentation of the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

8 (11) On October 11, 1976, Congress enacted
9 Public Law 94–479, which re-established the grade
10 of “General of the Armies of the United States” to
11 posthumously request the appointment of George
12 Washington to General of the Armies of the United
13 States and made clear that this grade has “prece-
14 dence over all other grades of the Army, past or
15 present”.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this joint resolution
17 is to—

18 (1) honor Ulysses S. Grant for his efforts and
19 leadership in defending the union of the United
20 States of America;

21 (2) recognize that the military victories
22 achieved under the command of Ulysses S. Grant
23 were integral to the preservation of the United
24 States of America; and

1 (3) affirm that Ulysses S. Grant is among the
2 most influential military commanders in the history
3 of the United States of America.

4 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT.**

5 The President is authorized and requested to appoint
6 Ulysses S. Grant posthumously to the grade of General
7 of the Armies of the United States, such appointment to
8 take effect on April 27, 2022.

○