

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4622, by Representatives Chopp, Kristiansen, Appleton, Barkis, Bergquist, Blake, Buys, Caldier, Chandler, Chapman, Clibborn, Cody, Condotta, DeBolt, Dent, Doglio, Dolan, Dye, Farrell, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Goodman, Graves, Gregerson, Griffey, Haler, Hansen, Hargrove, Harmsworth, Harris, Hayes, Holy, Hudgins, Irwin, Jenkin, Jenkins, Johnson, Kagi, Kilduff, Kirby, Klippert, Kloba, Koster, Kraft, Kretz, Lovick, Lytton, MacEwen, Macri, Manweller, Maycumber, McBride, McCabe, McCaslin, McDonald, Morris, Muri, Nealey, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Pellicciotti, Peterson, Pettigrew, Pike, Pollet, Reeves, Riccelli, Robinson, Rodne, Ryu, Santos, Sawyer, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shea, Slatter, Smith, Springer, Stambaugh, Stanford, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Tarleton, Taylor, Tharinger, Van Werven, Vick, Volz, J. Walsh, Wilcox, Wylie, and Young

1       WHEREAS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) has a legacy of  
2       significance to the United States and to the world that brings honor  
3       and pride to the entire state of Washington; and

4       WHEREAS, Camp Lewis, as it was then known, began construction in  
5       May of 1917 under the direction of Captain David L. Stone; who, in  
6       less than 90 days, created one thousand seven hundred fifty-seven  
7       buildings as well as four hundred twenty-two other structures with  
8       light and heat, exhibiting the "can do" spirit that inhabits the  
9       exploits of JBLM to this day; and

10       WHEREAS, In 1927, just to the north of Camp Lewis, Pierce County  
11       residents established an airfield of the highest quality; in 1939,  
12       that airfield was transferred to the United States Government and  
13       would later become McChord Field; and

14       WHEREAS, On February 1, 2010, Camp Lewis, later known as Fort  
15       Lewis, and McChord Field, later known as McChord Air Force Base,  
16       consolidated facilities and became Joint Base Lewis-McChord; and

17       WHEREAS, The first recruits to Camp Lewis became the "Ninety-  
18       First Division" or the "Wild West Division," which served in numerous  
19       battles in World War I, including the Meuse-Argonne offensive and the  
20       Battle of Flanders, and captured more than 2,200 German soldiers; and

21       WHEREAS, In 1940, McChord Field was the General Headquarters of  
22       the Air Force Northwest District; and

1       WHEREAS, With the outbreak of World War II, Colonel Dwight David  
2 Eisenhower, who later became President of the United States, was  
3 assigned to Fort Lewis as commander to the 15th Infantry Regiment and  
4 while there was promoted and placed in command of the entire pacific  
5 coast defense; and

6       WHEREAS, The first military group to arrive at McChord Field was  
7 the 17th Bombardment Group that patrolled the west coast for enemy  
8 submarines after the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor; and

9       WHEREAS, Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle came to McChord and  
10 selected ten aircrew members to participate in the courageous 1942  
11 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, which was the first American strike against  
12 the homeland of imperial Japan after the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

13       WHEREAS, During World War II, Fort Lewis contributed and deployed  
14 many divisions that were essential to the war effort, and McChord  
15 Field continued to play a strategic, vital, and heroic role until the  
16 close of World War II; and

17       WHEREAS, Both institutions were essential for the war efforts  
18 that followed, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the  
19 Cold War; and

20       WHEREAS, In 1972, Fort Lewis was given the task of making up a  
21 volunteer Army; for this, the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated  
22 and became the first volunteer division in the United States Army;  
23 and

24       WHEREAS, During the Reagan administration, Fort Lewis was  
25 selected to be the testing ground for molding the Army into a highly  
26 skilled, efficient fighting machine with lighter mobilized units  
27 capable of rapid deployment; and

28       WHEREAS, Fort Lewis and McChord played a strategic role in the  
29 First Gulf War; Operation Desert Storm; and, following the September  
30 11, 2001, terror attacks, played a key role in Operation Iraqi  
31 Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and to homeland security; and

32       WHEREAS, In 2004, Task Force Olympia was activated to deploy  
33 units into Iraq, including reserves, National Guards, Marines,  
34 Australian officers, and several subordinate units including the 3rd  
35 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 1st  
36 Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; and

37       WHEREAS, McChord Field, individually and as a part of JBLM, has  
38 an honorable and lifesaving record of humanitarian relief; and

1       WHEREAS, JBLM represents thirty percent of the Pierce County  
2 economy; is its largest employer, and is the second largest employer  
3 in the state; and has a 6.1 billion dollar impact on our economy; and

4       WHEREAS, JBLM is among the largest and most important bases in  
5 the United States, and currently supports over one hundred twenty-  
6 five thousand military retirees and more than thirty-two thousand  
7 family members who live both on and off base and enjoy Washington as  
8 their home; and

9       WHEREAS, The remarkable deeds of the men and women who have  
10 served at JBLM are too numerous to recount, and many have never been  
11 told due to the full measure of sacrifice given to the cause of  
12 freedom; and

13       WHEREAS, The gratitude the world owes them for their role in  
14 securing liberty is beyond measure;

15       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
16 of Representatives recognize the 100th anniversary of JBLM, which  
17 began in 1917 with land gifted for use as a permanent army post to  
18 the federal government by the citizens of Pierce County, which would  
19 in return give the United States and the world support and protection  
20 in our darkest hours so that we might live free.

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