



HR0638

LRB104 20358 RMO 33813 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize General George C. Marshall, who served with distinction during his time as senior instructor of the 33rd Division of the Illinois National Guard from November 1933 to August 1936, a position he held at the rank of colonel; and

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WHEREAS, Upon his arrival, General Marshall was described as a self-possessed officer of impeccable military bearing with a keen intellect and exacting standards that immediately began to shape the division; and

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WHEREAS, General Marshall instilled a principled approach to discipline, earning the respect of the 33rd Division's soldiers by focusing on meaningful improvements and efficiency; he demonstrated a commitment to practical and effective training by urging a reduction in paperwork and the elimination of unrealistic drills, thereby improving the division's focus and morale; and

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WHEREAS, As a direct result of General Marshall's leadership, the summer of 1934 saw every unit of the 33rd Division deemed satisfactory by federal inspectors for the first time in years, a testament to the success of his methods;

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1 the division's enhanced readiness was showcased with a  
2 division march, a bivouac in Grant Park, and a prestigious  
3 review on the grounds of the Century of Progress Fair in  
4 Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, General Marshall was instrumental in testing and  
6 implementing a new mobilization plan, leading a successful  
7 staff exercise at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and adapting it  
8 for the following year's training in Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, General Marshall fostered a culture of continuous  
10 improvement, directing the division to study maps and write  
11 orders in the winter of 1934 and work through practical  
12 problems on the ground in the spring of 1935; and

13 WHEREAS, General Marshall consistently advocated for the  
14 advancement of bright, capable young officers, demonstrating a  
15 humble and selfless dedication to the betterment of the  
16 service over his own personal advancement; he empowered his  
17 officers with greater responsibility as they gained  
18 experience, allowing him to contribute his talents to the  
19 division newspaper with articles on military history and a  
20 column highlighting division news; and

21 WHEREAS, By the spring of 1935, General Marshall reported  
22 that the 33rd Division had improved in all respects over the

1 preceding year and that the soldiers now understood the  
2 importance of severity in training; and

3 WHEREAS, General Marshall's tenure culminated in the 33rd  
4 Division's successful participation in the August 1936 Army  
5 maneuvers in Michigan, which involved more than 24,000 men and  
6 lasted for two weeks; and

7 WHEREAS, Shortly following these maneuvers, General  
8 Marshall's exceptional service was recognized with a promotion  
9 to the rank of brigadier general; he was later promoted to  
10 general and appointed as chief of staff of the United States  
11 Army through World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, General Marshall's work was further commended by  
13 Major General Leo Boyle, who held the rank of captain during  
14 General Marshall's time as senior instructor and later served  
15 as the Adjutant General of Illinois from 1940 to 1969, stating  
16 General Marshall had left his mark on the 33rd Division and  
17 praising him for raising the standard with his keen insight,  
18 personal and military knowledge, and leadership; therefore, be  
19 it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we recognize the lasting and significant contributions of

1 General George C. Marshall to the Illinois National Guard and  
2 the State of Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we commend General Marshall's exemplary  
4 leadership, his unwavering commitment to excellence, and his  
5 profound and positive impact on the 33rd Division, which set a  
6 new standard for military readiness and professionalism; and  
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry  
10 Brigade Combat Team in Urbana as a tribute to the enduring  
11 legacy of General Marshall.