



HR1288

LRB100 24172 MST 43346 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On November 4, 1943, eight members of the American Legion met at Luther B. Easley Post 128 in Salem to discuss ideas about how to help our soldiers readjust to civilian life after the current World War was won; and

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WHEREAS, These ideas were written down on dinner napkins by Omar J. McMackin of Salem, Earl W. Merritt of Salem, former Governor John Stelle of McLeansboro, Dr. Leonard W. Esper of Springfield, George H. Bauer of Effingham, William R. McCauley of Olney, James P. Ringley of Lemont, and A. L. Starshak of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, These ideas were taken to Washington, D.C. by Governor Stelle and included in the drafting of the longhand version of ideas from Legion members around the United States during meetings at the Mayflower Hotel; and

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WHEREAS, Officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 10th by ranking Democrat and Republican members John Rankin and Edith Nourse Rogers, and introduced in the U.S. Senate on January 11th with Senate sub-committee chair Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri and joined by Senators Tom Connelly of Texas, David I. Walsh of

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1 Massachusetts, Walter F. George of Georgia, Owen Brewster of  
2 Maine, Chan Gurney of South Dakota, Scott Lucas and C. Wayland  
3 Brooks of Illinois, Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, and Hattie  
4 Caraway of Arkansas; and

5 WHEREAS, The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more  
6 commonly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights, was passed by the  
7 U.S. Senate on June 12, 1944 and the U.S. House of  
8 Representatives on June 13, 1944; it was signed into law by  
9 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on June 22, 1944; and

10 WHEREAS, June 22, 2019 will be the 75th anniversary of the  
11 G.I. Bill of Rights; and

12 WHEREAS, This historic piece of legislation is a fine  
13 example of things being born, built, or grown in Illinois that  
14 are worthy of recognition as part of the Illinois bicentennial;  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 congratulate the American Legion on this historic  
19 accomplishment; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 presented to the National American Legion Commander Brett P.

1 Reistad and to the American Legions of the members who were  
2 instrumental in the "birth" of the G.I. Bill in Illinois.