

5/01/2003 Moran Introduces Bill to Recognize Emporia as Founding City of Veterans Day

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today introduced legislation that would officially recognize the city of Emporia as the founding city of Veterans Day. Both the founder of Veterans Day, Alvin J. King, and the Congressman who introduced the original legislation, Ed Rees, were residents of Emporia. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, another Kansan, signed into law the bill that proclaimed November 11 of each year as Veterans Day in 1954.

"Our veterans and their service to the country have always been a proud part of our state's heritage," Moran said. "From our state's inception at the beginning of the Civil War, to our troops' being called out to today's war in Iraq, Kansas has played a significant role in our nation's military history. It is with great pride in my state that I introduce this bill to acknowledge Kansas's contribution to recognizing those brave men and women who have served."

In 1938, Armistice Day became a national holiday, held to commemorate the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month when World War I came to an end. In 1953, Mr. King convinced the city of Emporia to celebrate Veterans Day, instead, in order to show gratitude to local veterans. Representative Rees supported Mr. King's idea and introduced legislation to make the change to Veterans Day law. Congress quickly passed the bill, and President Eisenhower signed it into law.

"Each year, our nation comes together on November 11 to remember and honor the sacrifices made by previous generations of veterans," Moran said. "Today we recognize the citizens of Emporia, Kansas who, since 1953, have recognized the importance of a national observance honoring our nation's veterans."

November 11, 2003 will be the 50th anniversary of the City of Emporia's celebration of Veterans Day.

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