

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2100

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1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 2, by striking out "and"

2 Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by striking out the period after
3 "meetings" and inserting
4 ; and providing for veteran recognition.

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17 Section 701. Effective date.

18 Amend Bill, page 1, by inserting between lines 6 and 7

19 CHAPTER 1

20 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

21 Amend Bill, page 1, line 7, by striking out "1" and inserting
22 101

23 Amend Bill, page 1, line 9, by inserting after "Day"
24 and Veteran Recognition

25 Amend Bill, page 1, by inserting between lines 9 and 10

26 CHAPTER 3

27 SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE DAY

28 Amend Bill, page 1, line 10, by striking out "2" and
29 inserting

30 301

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by striking out "act" and

2 inserting

3 chapter

4 Amend Bill, page 2, line 3, by striking out "3" and inserting

5 302

6 Amend Bill, page 2, line 6, by striking out "4" and inserting

7 303

8 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 11 and 12

9

CHAPTER 5

10

VETERAN RECOGNITION

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Section 501. Scope of chapter.

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This chapter recognizes the contributions of veterans of the United States Armed Forces from this Commonwealth in major conflicts since the Vietnam War.

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Section 502. Persian Gulf War Veterans Day.

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(a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

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(1) On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi troops to invade and occupy the sovereign nation of Kuwait.

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(2) The United States led an international coalition demanding Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait by January 15, 1991.

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(3) After Iraq failed to meet the deadline, passed by the United Nations Security Council, President George H. W. Bush on January 16, 1991, ordered United States Armed Forces to begin "Operation Desert Storm."

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(4) On January 17, 750,000 coalition forces from 36 nations, including 540,000 United States Armed Forces, began the battle to liberate Kuwait from occupation.

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(5) After an intensive air campaign, coalition forces liberated Kuwait City on February 28, 1991.

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(6) On March 6, after negotiating a cease-fire, President Bush announced the end of combat operations.

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(7) By the end of the conflict, 200 United States Armed Forces members were killed, including 29 from this Commonwealth.

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(8) The bravery of United States Armed Forces and their allies should be recognized for the liberation of Kuwait and restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent nation.

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(b) Designation.--March 6 of each year is designated as "Persian Gulf War Veterans Day."

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(c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational institutions to observe "Persian Gulf War Veterans Day" and to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those

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1 involved in the Persian Gulf War and remembering the sacrifices
2 they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a
3 public school or educational institution to participate in the
4 observance.

5 § 1303. Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day.

6 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
7 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

8 (1) The campaign in Afghanistan, which is America's
9 longest conflict, began in 2001 and continues to this day.

10 (2) Following the terrorist attacks on September 11,
11 2001, the United States demanded that the Taliban regime stop
12 harboring Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible
13 for the 9/11 attacks, and hand over the Al Qaeda leader Osama
14 bin Laden.

15 (3) President George W. Bush ordered United States Armed
16 Forces to begin "Operation Enduring Freedom" (OEF) to combat
17 terrorism in Afghanistan and confront Al Qaeda.

18 (4) United States Armed Forces first entered Afghanistan
19 and began combat operations on October 7, 2001.

20 (5) On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed during
21 the fighting after President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEALs
22 to raid Osama bin Laden's compound.

23 (6) On December 31, 2014, the United States and the
24 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat operations
25 in Afghanistan officially ended.

26 (7) Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom,
27 over 830,000 Americans, including 18,000 from this
28 Commonwealth, have served in Afghanistan.

29 (8) More than 2,000 members of the United States Armed
30 Forces, including 98 from this Commonwealth, were killed in
31 action in Afghanistan since combat began.

32 (9) More than 19,000 members of the United States Armed
33 Forces were wounded in service to their country during
34 Operation Enduring Freedom.

35 (10) When Operation Enduring Freedom ended, the United
36 States began a new phase of the campaign, named Operation
37 Freedom's Sentinel (OFS).

38 (11) United States Armed Forces remain in the country to
39 participate in a coalition mission to train, advise and
40 assist Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and to
41 conduct counterterrorism operations against the remnants of
42 Al Qaeda.

43 (12) During Operation Freedom's Sentinel more than 70
44 Americans have lost their lives and another 453 have been
45 wounded in action.

46 (13) On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush
47 announced the beginning of combat operations in Iraq after
48 Saddam Hussein failed to meet the demands of the United
49 States.

50 (14) "Operation Iraqi Freedom" lasted for more than
51 seven years, reducing the influence of insurgents, stopping

1 sectarian violence, assisting in training the Iraq Security
2 Forces and promoting the development of Iraq's constitution
3 and elections.

4 (15) Major United States combat operations ended on
5 September 1, 2010. American troops remained in the country to
6 advise Iraqi Security Forces as part of "Operation New Dawn"
7 until the withdrawal on December 15, 2011.

8 (16) More than 4,000 members of the United States Armed
9 Forces lost their lives during "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and
10 "Operation New Dawn," including 197 from this Commonwealth,
11 and more than 32,000 were wounded.

12 (17) With the rise of the terrorist group known as the
13 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the United States
14 created a new combined joint task force in 2014, dubbed
15 "Operation Inherent Resolve."

16 (18) March 23, 2019, marked the end of ISIS controlling
17 any physical territory.

18 (19) United States Armed Forces under "Operation
19 Inherent Resolve" continue to work by, with and through local
20 partners to defeat the final ISIS force and stabilize the
21 region.

22 (20) The fight against ISIS under "Operation Inherent
23 Resolve" has claimed more than 80 American lives, with
24 another 80 wounded in action.

25 (21) United States military personnel have served
26 domestically securing key infrastructure and support overseas
27 operation.

28 (22) Since September 11, 2001, members of the United
29 States military have served on nearly every continent
30 fighting international terrorism.

31 (b) Designation.-- October 7 of each year is designated as
32 "Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day."

33 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
34 proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational
35 institutions to observe "Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day"
36 and to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all
37 those involved in the Global War on Terrorism and remembering
38 the sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may
39 not mandate a public school or educational institution to
40 participate in the observance.

41 CHAPTER 7

42 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

43 Amend Bill, page 2, line 12, by striking out "5" and
44 inserting
45 701