

Oct. 21, 1988
[H. Con. Res. 126]

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART MUSEUM— RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

Whereas George Washington, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, on August 7, 1782, devised the Badge of Military Merit (the antecedent of the Purple Heart) to be given to enlisted men and noncommissioned officers for meritorious action;

Whereas the Badge of Military Merit became popularly known as the "Purple Heart" because it consisted of the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding and was affixed to the uniform coat above the left breast;

Whereas three Badges of Military Merit were awarded during the Revolutionary War, all to volunteers from Connecticut;

Whereas the first recipient of the Badge of Military Merit was probably Sergeant Elijah Churchill, a carpenter from Enfield, Connecticut;

Whereas Sergeant Churchill, who served in several units including the 2d Continental Light Dragoon Regiment, was cited for gallantry in three separate actions and was awarded the Badge of Military Merit by George Washington at his headquarters, Newburgh, New York, on May 3, 1783;

Whereas the Badge of Military Merit was redesignated by General Douglas MacArthur as the Purple Heart in February 1932, to be awarded to persons killed or wounded in action against an enemy of the United States; and

Whereas the National Purple Heart Museum Committee is developing the National Purple Heart Museum in Enfield, Connecticut, to honor those individuals awarded the Purple Heart and to inform and educate the people of the United States about the history and importance of this distinguished combat award: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes and supports the efforts of the National Purple Heart Museum Committee to develop the National Purple Heart Museum in Enfield, Connecticut, and encourages the people of the United States to participate in the development of such museum.

Agreed to October 21, 1988.

Oct. 21, 1988
[H. Con. Res. 331]

IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY AND INDIAN NATIONS—RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Whereas the original framers of the Constitution, including, most notably, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, are known to have greatly admired the concepts of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy;

Whereas the confederation of the original Thirteen Colonies into one republic was influenced by the political system developed by the Iroquois Confederacy as were many of the democratic principles which were incorporated into the Constitution itself; and,

Whereas, since the formation of the United States, the Congress has recognized the sovereign status of Indian tribes and has, through

the exercise of powers reserved to the Federal Government in the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (art. I, s.2, cl. 3), dealt with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis and has, through the treaty clause (art. II, s.2, cl. 2) entered into three hundred and seventy treaties with Indian tribal Nations;

Whereas, from the first treaty entered into with an Indian Nation, the treaty with the Delaware Indians of September 17, 1778, the Congress has assumed a trust responsibility and obligation to Indian tribes and their members;

Whereas this trust responsibility calls for Congress to "exercise the utmost good faith in dealings with Indians" as provided for in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, (1 Stat. 50);

Whereas the judicial system of the United States has consistently recognized and reaffirmed this special relationship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That—

(1) the Congress, on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, acknowledges the contribution made by the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indian Nations to the formation and development of the United States;

(2) the Congress also hereby reaffirms the constitutionally recognized government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes which has been the cornerstone of this Nation's official Indian policy;

(3) the Congress specifically acknowledges and reaffirms the trust responsibility and obligation of the United States Government to Indian tribes, including Alaska Natives, for their preservation, protection, and enhancement, including the provision of health, education, social, and economic assistance programs as necessary, and including the duty to assist tribes in their performance of governmental responsibility to provide for the social and economic well-being of their members and to preserve tribal cultural identity and heritage; and

(4) the Congress also acknowledges the need to exercise the utmost good faith in upholding its treaties with the various tribes, as the tribes understood them to be, and the duty of a great Nation to uphold its legal and moral obligations for the benefit of all of its citizens so that they and their posterity may also continue to enjoy the rights they have enshrined in the United States Constitution for time immemorial.

Agreed to October 21, 1988.

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Whereas the Senate of the United States in 1989 will commemorate its two hundredth anniversary; and

Whereas the Senate has determined that the series of "Senate Bicentennial Minutes", which Senator Bob Dole began on January 6, 1987, is worthy of separate publication and wide distribution: Now, therefore, be it