

Solidarity) to form the four affiliated institutions of the Endowment;

Whereas the Endowment and the affiliated institutes have supported grassroots programs to build democratic institutions, spread democratic values, encourage free market institutions, and promote political parties, worker rights, independent media, human rights, the rule of law, civic education, conflict resolution, political participation by women, and many other essential components of civil society and democratic governance in emerging and transitional democracies, nondemocracies, and war-torn societies;

Whereas the programs carried out or funded by the Endowment have made significant contributions to the efforts of democratic activists to achieve freedom and self-governance around the world;

Whereas the Endowment, through the Journal of Democracy, the International Forum for Democratic Studies, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, and the World Movement for Democracy, has served as a key center of democratic research, exchange, and networking, bringing together thousands of democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners from around the world; and

Whereas the spread of democracy throughout the world, to which the work of the Endowment has contributed significantly, has enhanced the national security interests of the United States and advanced democratic ideals and values throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*  
That Congress—

(1) commends the National Endowment for Democracy for its major contributions to the strengthening of democracy around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Endowment; and

(2) endeavors to continue to support the vital work of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Agreed to October 20, 2003.

Oct. 31, 2003  
[H. Con. Res. 159]

## EMPORIA, KANSAS—FOUNDING CITY OF VETERANS DAY

Whereas in 1953, Alvin J. King of Emporia, Kansas, proposed that Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to recognize and honor all veterans from all wars and conflicts;

Whereas in 1953, Veterans Day was first organized and celebrated in Emporia, Kansas;

Whereas although Alvin King was only 15 years old when the United States went to war in 1917 and never served in the Armed Forces, he had a deep respect for veterans;

Whereas Alvin King's stepson, John Cooper, whom he had raised, was killed in action in Belgium during World War II while serving with Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment;

Whereas after World War II, Alvin King developed friendships with the surviving members of Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment;

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Whereas in the early 1950s, Alvin King suggested either creating a special day to honor all veterans or adapting Armistice Day so that it was dedicated to all veterans since, at that time, Armistice Day honored the veterans of World War I;

Whereas by 1953, the community of Emporia, Kansas, had raised enough money to send Alvin King and his wife, Gertrude, to Washington, D.C. to garner support for an official veterans day;

Whereas Alvin King had a friend and supporter in Representative Ed Rees of Emporia, Kansas, who was strongly in favor of King's idea and said "it would give the holiday a new meaning and more widespread patriotic observance";

Whereas on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was raised in Kansas, signed into law the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day (Public Law 380 of the 83rd Congress);

Whereas on October 8, 1954, President Eisenhower issued a presidential proclamation concerning Veterans Day in 1954 in which he stated, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain"; and

Whereas the first nationwide observance of Veterans Day was on November 11, 1954: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*  
That Congress hereby—

(1) encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day by treating that day as a special day of remembrance;

(2) declares Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of Veterans Day;

(3) recognizes Alvin J. King, of Emporia, Kansas, as the founder of Veterans Day; and

(4) recognizes that Representative Ed Rees, of Emporia, Kansas, was instrumental in the efforts to enact into law the observance of Veterans Day.

Agreed to October 31, 2003.

POPE JOHN PAUL II—PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF  
FREEDOM REQUEST

Nov. 19, 2003  
[H. Con. Res. 313]

Whereas His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, the youngest of 3 children, born to Karol Wojtyla and Emilia Kaczorowska;

Whereas Pope John Paul II personally suffered and experienced deprivation from an early age, losing his mother, eldest brother, and father before turning age 21;

Whereas Pope John Paul II found comfort and strength in the example of his father's faith, who he observed "after my mother's death, his life became one of constant prayer. Sometimes I would