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108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 37

Expressing support for the celebration of Patriot's Day and honoring the Nation's first patriots.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the celebration of Patriot's Day and honoring the Nation's first patriots.

Whereas on the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them;

Whereas after leaving Charlestown on his way to Lexington, Paul Revere alerted the inhabitants of villages and towns along his route, stopping in Medford (formerly Mystic) at the home of Isaac Hall, the captain of the Medford Minutemen during the Revolutionary War, before continuing on through Arlington (formerly Menotomy) and arriving in Lexington around midnight;

Whereas William Dawes and a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott joined Paul Revere on his mission and they proceeded together on horseback to Lincoln;

Whereas while en route they encountered a British patrol that arrested Paul Revere, but William Dawes and Samuel Prescott managed to escape and continued on to Concord where weapons and supplies were hidden;

Whereas the midnight ride of Paul Revere was brilliantly and forever commemorated by the great American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his 1861 poem ''Paul Revere's Ride'';

Whereas the actions taken by Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott afforded the Minutemen time to assemble to confront the advancing British troops and were heralded as one of the first great acts of patriotism of our Nation;

Whereas 38 Lexington Minutemen boldly stood before 600–800 British troops who had gathered at Lexington Green;

Whereas Captain Parker of the Lexington Minutemen commanded his men, ''Don't fire unless you are fired on; but if they want a war, let it begin here.'';

Whereas when the British continued onto Concord, a battle ensued at the Old North Bridge, where Minutemen from every Middlesex village and town routed the British and forced them into retreat back to Boston;

Whereas Ralph Waldo Emerson immortalized this moment in American history as where ''the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard 'round the world.'';

Whereas the United States has recognized the historic significance of the Nation's original patriots with the creation in 1959 of the Minute Man National Historical Park, lo-

cated in Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington, Massachusetts, to preserve and protect the numerous significant historic sites, structures, properties, and landscapes associated with the opening battles of the American Revolution, and to help visitors understand and interpret the colonial struggle for their rights and freedoms; and

Whereas the heroic acts of April 19, 1775, are celebrated in Massachusetts and Maine every year as part of Patriot's Day with a reenactment of Paul Revere's famous ride, battle reenactments, educational programs, parades, and civic activities, and remembered by Americans across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) expresses support for the celebration of Patriot's Day;

(2) recognizes the extraordinary dedication to freedom demonstrated by the Nation's first patriots during the earliest days of the Battle for Independence in April 1775; and

(3) honors those first patriots who lost their lives in defense of liberty and freedom.

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