



Proclamation

In Recognition of

World War I Centennial Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1917, the Steamer Aztec was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off Ushant Light, Quessant Island on the northwest coast of France, killing 28 young merchant mariners, of which six were Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani ordered the flying of the United States flag over Washington Place in honor of the six young Hawaiian men – Chester T. Lee, John Davis, Julian R. Macomber, Henry Rice, Eleka Kaohi, and Charles Kanai; and

WHEREAS, America maintained a firm policy of neutrality until war became inevitable as President Woodrow Wilson declared on April 2, 1917 in his address to Congress, "it is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken"; and

WHEREAS, the Territory of Hawai'i supported the President's declaration, taking steps to protect Honolulu Harbor and government property, increase provost guard and coast defense, and call upon the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Territory of Hawai'i demonstrated loyalty and support with a movement of preparedness, including the development of the Hawai'i National Guard which was larger than that of any other state in 1916; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of valor and patriotism in Hawai'i was evident when over 68,000 men answered the call to service by registering in the draft in 1917, and nearly 10,000 men from the Territory of Hawai'i served in the war; and

WHEREAS, a War Relief Committee in Hawai'i, along with civic organizations and civilian men, women and children, raised money and shipped clothing and comfort kits to help the fatherless, widows, wounded and disabled in war-torn Europe; and

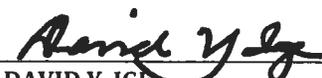
WHEREAS, the Hawai'i World War I Centennial Task Force was formed on August 29, 2015 to pay homage to the fallen Hawaiian merchant marines, remember all veterans who served during the Great War, recognize local contributions to the war effort, and educate posterity; and

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2017 as

"WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL REMEMBRANCE DAY"

and ask that the people of the Aloha State join us in commemorating and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War I and to recognize the patriotic and humanitarian efforts of civilians in Hawai'i.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twentieth day of March 2017.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i