

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9

By COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 6

1 Delete lines 2 through 14 of the printed concurrent resolution and insert:

2 "Whereas many of the nation's veterans, including those who are residents of Oregon, were  
3 subjected to varying amounts of radiation because of the testing of atomic weapons from 1945 to  
4 1963; and

5 "Whereas the potential harm to these veterans was unknown at the time of the testing, resulting  
6 in the exposure of many veterans to harmful doses of radiation and causing them to suffer debili-  
7 tating, degenerative diseases that affect the veterans and their descendants; and

8 "Whereas veterans who were early test subjects were required to sign an oath of secrecy re-  
9 garding their involvement in the atomic testing, preventing these veterans from informing the Vet-  
10 erans Health Administration of their medical problems that resulted from radiation until 1996, when  
11 these veterans were released from their oaths of secrecy; and

12 Whereas in 1979, the National Association of Atomic Veterans was created to locate these vet-  
13 erans, to honor the sacrifices they made and to help these veterans and their families in obtaining  
14 medical treatment and assistance; and

15 "Whereas many veterans who were early test subjects were injured in the line of duty but re-  
16 ceived no medals because they were not in combat; and

17 "Whereas the number of members in this group is rapidly decreasing because of the age of these  
18 veterans and it is most appropriate to recognize their sacrifices for this nation's freedom; and

19 "Whereas by engaging in a national research and education effort for atomic war veterans, the  
20 National Association of Atomic Veterans is promoting early detection of medical problems and re-  
21 search and documentation of the connection between radiation exposure and resultant cancer and  
22 other debilitating, degenerative diseases and genetic mutations; and

23 "Whereas the first atomic bomb was detonated on July 16, 1945; now, therefore,".

24 Delete lines 16 through 18 and insert:

25 "That we, the members of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, designate July 16 of every  
26 year as Atomic Veterans Day and urge those veterans who participated in the United States atmo-  
27 spheric and underground nuclear weapons test and the United States' occupation of Hiroshima and  
28 Nagasaki following World War II and those veterans who were prisoners of war in Hiroshima and  
29 Nagasaki or served in gaseous diffusion plants to contact the Oregon State Commander of the Na-  
30 tional Association of Atomic Veterans or the Director of Veterans' Affairs; and be it further

31 "Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Oregon State Commander of the  
32 National Association of Atomic Veterans and the Director of Veterans' Affairs.".

33