

A-Engrossed
House Concurrent Resolution 9

Ordered by the House May 6
Including House Amendments dated May 6

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Recognizes June 14 of each year as "Honor Our Troops Day."]
Designates July 16 of every year as Atomic Veterans Day.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas many of the nation's veterans, including those who are residents of Oregon, were sub-
3 jected to varying amounts of radiation because of the testing of atomic weapons from 1945 to 1963;
4 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 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

25 That we, the members of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, designate July 16 of every year
26 as Atomic Veterans Day and urge those veterans who participated in the United States atmospheric
27 and underground nuclear weapons test and the United States' occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
28 following World War II and those veterans who were prisoners of war in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 or served in gaseous diffusion plants to contact the Oregon State Commander of the National As-
2 sociation of Atomic Veterans or the Director of Veterans' Affairs; and be it further

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

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