



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, one hundred years ago today, on April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I to defend the values of freedom and democracy that were under attack in Europe, and New Yorkers from all corners of the state answered the call to uphold the founding values of our nation with unparalleled dedication, valor, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, more than 500,000 New Yorkers served in the American Expeditionary Forces under General J. Pershing in World War I, more than 10 percent of the four million United States troops; they fought bravely and with great determination, helping to secure the Allied Victory by facing the enemy at the Aisne-Marne offensive, the Somme offensive, in the Argonne Forest, at the battle of Meuse-Argonne, and offensives breaking the Hindenburg Line; and

Whereas, New York State's regiments were honored for their selfless service and courage, including the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Fighting 69th," and the 369th Infantry Regiment, called the "Harlem Hellfighters" or the "Black Rattlers," the first African-American regiment to serve in combat during World War I; twenty-five New Yorkers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their valiant service in World War I; and

Whereas, World War I was one of the bloodiest and costliest conflicts in human history, ultimately claiming 17 million lives between 1914 and 1918, including those of more than 116,000 United States troops, 53,000 of whom died in battle, with more than 20 million others left wounded; the war transformed the world, ending the era of kingdoms and empires and heralding the Modern Era, with the United States emerging as a global power; and

Whereas, we solemnly remember the valor and sacrifices made by the 13,956 New Yorkers who died fighting for our country in World War I; the names and stories of these individuals who lost their lives should never be forgotten as families and communities across New York State were forever affected by their loss; and

Whereas, we owe our deepest gratitude to the many thousands of New Yorkers who returned home wounded from the World War I battlefields, marked by the dawn of modern weaponry, and acknowledge that the injuries and scars of war – both seen and unseen – brought many challenges and difficulties to these individuals and their families; and

Whereas, New York also played an integral role in supporting the Allied victory by providing more supplies than any other state in the nation, including munitions and planes, training and tools for many of our country's first aviation combat pilots, and caring for the injured; even before the United States' entry into the war thousands of New Yorkers generously volunteered to serve as nurses and ambulance drivers to aid the Allied cause; and

Whereas, there are no surviving individuals who served in World War I, yet today we remember and commemorate the example set by these New Yorkers of heroism and self-sacrifice – a proud example that inspires us all and that lives on in generations of their family members who followed them;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2017 as

A DAY TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES MADE BY NEW YORK STATE AND NEW YORKERS IN WORLD WAR I

in the Empire State, as we mark the centennial of the United States' entry into this event of such great consequence on humankind.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day of
April in the year two thousand seventeen.




Governor


Secretary to the Governor