

By: Senator J. Petty

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025, OF THE ROBERT W. JACK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1322 IN THE CITY OF VAN BUREN, THE OLDEST VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST IN ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025, OF THE ROBERT W. JACK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1322 IN THE CITY OF VAN BUREN, THE OLDEST VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, veterans in the City of Van Buren and Crawford County, understanding the importance of providing support to veterans, service members, and their families, were granted a charter to organize a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on February 13, 1925; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars traces its roots to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service, as many veterans arrived home from war wounded or sick and found no medical care or veterans' pensions waiting for them; and

WHEREAS, charter members of the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 representing veterans of the Spanish-American War were Charles Meador, Charles Blevins, and J.P. Brown; and



WHEREAS, charter members of the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 representing veterans of World War I, also known as the Great War, were Hugh G. Pope, G.O. Gooding, A. Dewey Lewis, George R. Wood, Robert G. Boatright, Claude L. Sartain, W.A. Baxter, Frank X. Rooney, J.S. Kenny, T.J. Garner, W.E. Lynch, Roy R. Johnson, Roy Franklin, Hugo A. Seelbinder, Harry Line, Phillip Cornelius, and Allen Taylor; and

WHEREAS, the charter members of the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 unanimously chose to honor the memory of Robert W. Jack because Jack gave his life on September 22, 1918, during the waning hours of the Battle of Saint-Miheil in France, and was a good friend to charter member Hugh G. Pope; and

WHEREAS, the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 rapidly became a beacon of hope and support for veterans that served in the Spanish-American War and World War I; and

WHEREAS, for the past one hundred (100) years, the dedication of the charter members of the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 has created more than a building or organization for veterans; it is a place veterans can call home and a place that provides essential services to men and women who have served the nation in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 predated the establishment of the Department of Arkansas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and is currently the oldest Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 began work on Vision 2025, a project encompassing construction of a facility that will embody a comprehensive approach to health and support for veterans; and

WHEREAS, Vision 2025 will include a mental health clinic, a physical therapy clinic, and a physician's clinic as well as a Federal Emergency

Management Agency-certified storm shelter, a community room, a historical museum, and an outdoor walking trail; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Robert Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 is to serve the veterans, citizens, and youth of the City of Van Buren and surrounding communities with existing programs such as OPERATION: Daily Battle, Hiking for Mental Health, Gaming Against PTSD, Voices of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth essay contests, helping food-insecure veterans and their families with food and assistance with bills, and providing wheelchair-accessible ramps; and

WHEREAS, the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 recognizes the ongoing and changing needs of its veterans and adapts the services it provides to the needs of the veterans of the City of Van Buren and Crawford County; and

WHEREAS, the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 serves as a model for other Veterans of Foreign Wars posts throughout Arkansas and the nation,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate commemorate and celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 in the City of Van Buren.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Robert W. Jack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1322 Commander Matthew Hicks by the Secretary of the Senate.