

Agenda Item No.

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of the Chancellor

April 21, 2017

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Honoring and Recognizing the Sacrifices of the Texas A&M University Class of 1917

Approval of the following resolution honoring the Texas A&M University Class of 1917 by the Board of Regents is recommended:

“WHEREAS, on April 6, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson presented a declaration of war on Germany to the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the war in Europe forever transformed the lives of many, particularly those in Texas and those in attendance at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the brave cadets of the Class of 1917 nobly responded to the call to duty; and

WHEREAS, the administrators at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas released all seniors for active duty in April of 1917; and

WHEREAS, virtually the entirety of the Class of 1917 of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas – some 120 young men – joined the fight against Germany in the war that would be known as World War I; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the Class of 1917 underwent military training at a camp in Leon Springs, Texas, a few members of the class were sent to Houston for naval training and an additional small number of others went to Parris Island in South Carolina to be trained as Marines; and

WHEREAS, by Christmas of 1917, nearly all members of the A&M championship football team, including many seniors, joined the army, along with legendary football Coach Dana X. Bible, who resigned in 1917 from his post after one of the most successful seasons, to become a pursuit pilot in the war; and

WHEREAS, the Class of 1917 was denied the graduation ceremony due to the country’s need for courageous and able-bodied men; and

WHEREAS, college administrators later made arrangements in June of 1917 to hold special commencement exercises at the officer training camp in Leon Springs, Texas, where seniors in good standing received their diplomas; and

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WHEREAS, soon after accepting their diplomas, most of the seniors of the Class of 1917 received commissions as second lieutenants in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, four members of the Class of 1917 would make the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and their country as part of the war effort, including three in France and one while training stateside; and

WHEREAS, the young men from a variety of backgrounds and places would help form the traditions of service and sacrifice that current and former students seek to emulate even today; and

WHEREAS, the Class of 1917 of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas will forever be remembered as one of the bravest and most dedicated groups of students to come through College Station; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on the one hundredth anniversary of the year they were to graduate from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, the members of The Texas A&M University System's Board of Regents always will remember the sacrifices of the Class of 1917 and vow to keep the memory of those who served alive; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and official copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents and be presented to the Archives of Texas A&M University, as a permanent mark of this Board's appreciation and gratitude.

ADOPTED, this 27th day of April 2017.”

Respectfully submitted,

John Sharp
Chancellor

Approval Recommended:

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

Billy Hamilton
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel