

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6007

A RESOLUTION designating July 16, 2004, as Atomic Veterans Day.

WHEREAS, Many of our veterans, including veterans who are residents of Kansas, were subjected to varying amounts of radiation because of the testing of atomic weapons in the atmosphere from 1945 until the suspension of testing in 1963. The potential harm to these veterans was unknown initially, but many were exposed to harmful doses of radiation and have suffered debilitating, degenerative diseases affecting themselves and their offspring; and

WHEREAS, Early test subjects were required to sign an oath of secrecy regarding their involvement in atomic testing preventing them from taking their medical problems resulting from radiation to the Veterans Administration. In 1996 these nuclear veterans were released from their oath of secrecy. Prior to this date the National Association of Atomic Veterans was created to locate these veterans, to honor the sacrifices they made and to help these veterans and their spouses and children in obtaining medical treatment and assistance. Many were injured as if they had been in battle but they have received no medals. As the members of this group are rapidly decreasing because of their age, it is most appropriate to recognize their sacrifices for our freedom; and

WHEREAS, By engaging in a national research and education effort for atomic war veterans, the National Association of Atomic Veterans is promoting early detection of medical problems and research and documentation of the connection between radiation exposure and resultant cancer and other debilitating, degenerative diseases and genetic mutations: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we designate July 16, 2004, the anniversary of the first atomic test, as Atomic Veterans Day and urge those veterans who participated in the United States' atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons tests, the United States' occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki following World War II, those who were prisoners of war in Hiroshima and Nagasaki or served in gaseous diffusion plants to contact the Kansas State Commander of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, 527 W. North Street, P.O. Box 159, Leon, KS 67074 or the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, 700 S.W. Jackson, Suite 701, Topeka, KS 66613; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Kansas State Commander of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, 527 W. North Street, P.O. Box 159, Leon, KS 67074 and the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, 700 S.W. Jackson, Suite 701, Topeka, KS 66613.

House Resolution No. 6007 was sponsored by Representatives Everett Johnson.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*