

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1419

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Jefferson Barracks in Missouri and recognizing its contributions to the military history and national security of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 6, 2026

Mrs. WAGNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Jefferson Barracks in Missouri and recognizing its contributions to the military history and national security of the United States.

Whereas Jefferson Barracks was established on July 10, 1826, as the first Infantry School of Practice of the Army, replacing Fort Bellefontaine, and remains the oldest operational military installation west of the Mississippi River;

Whereas the post was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson and was founded on 1,702 acres acquired from residents of the former French Village of Carondelet,

serving initially to provide hands-on training complementing academic instruction at West Point;

Whereas during the 1820s and 1830s, troops from Jefferson Barracks played a key role in westward expansion;

Whereas on March 2, 1833, Congress authorized the U.S. Regiment of Dragoons at Jefferson Barracks, the first permanent cavalry unit in the U.S. Army, which later evolved into the 1st Cavalry and served as a precursor to modern armored forces;

Whereas during the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848, Jefferson Barracks functioned as a rest and supply station, recruiting center, and staging ground, with troops under General Zachary Taylor distinguishing themselves in battle;

Whereas by the 1840s, Jefferson Barracks had grown into the largest military installation in the United States, expanding its roles to include an ordnance depot, engineer base, cavalry post, general hospital, induction and separation center, and basic training facility;

Whereas during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, over 100 general officers from both the Union and Confederacy served at Jefferson Barracks, and it hosted the first Union action in Missouri with the capture of Camp Jackson on May 10, 1861, under Captain Nathaniel Lyon;

Whereas the installation became a major hospital during the Civil War, treating over 18,000 soldiers, supplemented by floating hospitals, and serving as a burial site for many, while also functioning as a recruitment depot;

Whereas during World War I from 1917 to 1918, Jefferson Barracks became an enlistment and deployment center for recruits from 12 Midwestern States, housing over

12,000 recruits at its peak and contributing an estimated 200,000 men to the war effort through training and troop movements;

Whereas Dwight D. Eisenhower began his military career at Jefferson Barracks in 1911, preparing for West Point entrance exams, before later becoming Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II and President of the United States;

Whereas after World War II, Jefferson Barracks was declared surplus and decommissioned in 1946, with facilities transferred to the State of Missouri for the Missouri National Guard, marking its ongoing role in the reserve components;

Whereas Jefferson Barracks was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, and today serves as a county park, historic site, and museum district, including the Missouri Civil War Museum founded in 2002, the POW/MIA Museum, and the Ordnance Museum;

Whereas the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, established in 1827, is the final resting place for over 200,000 veterans from all U.S. wars, including 16,000 soldiers of the Civil War, and continues to operate with memorials and daily burials;

Whereas Jefferson Barracks remains an active military installation, home to units of the Missouri Air National Guard and Army National Guard, a Veterans Affairs hospital complex, and recreational amenities like trails, disc golf, and archery, offering free public access and symbolizing 200 years of dedication, resilience, and remembrance;

Whereas in the present day, Jefferson Barracks continues to support national security through Reserve and National Guard operations, historic preservation, veteran services, and community engagement, making it an invaluable cornerstone of Missouri's military heritage and the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) celebrates Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis
3 County, Missouri, on its 200th anniversary;

4 (2) commends the thousands of men and
5 women who have served, trained, and worked at Jef-
6 ferson Barracks throughout its history;

7 (3) recognizes the enduring contributions of
8 Jefferson Barracks to the military history, innova-
9 tions, and national security of the United States;

10 (4) encourages continued investment in, and
11 preservation of, Jefferson Barracks as a vital mili-
12 tary, historical, and community asset; and

13 (5) acknowledges the ongoing role of Missouri
14 in supporting national defense through facilities like
15 Jefferson Barracks and its associated National
16 Guard, veteran services, and historic sites.

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