

APPROVED

SEP 18 1975

Statement moved in Calif.
9/20/75

Signed
9/18/75

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 17, 1975

Last Day: September 22

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 331
Observance of Veterans Day
on November 11

Attached for your consideration is S. 331, sponsored by Senator Hruska and 18 others, which redesignates November 11 of each year as Veterans Day, beginning in 1978.

Additional background information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Veterans Administration, Civil Service Commission, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus), Ted Marrs, and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill and the proposed signing statement which has been cleared by Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S. 331 at Tab C.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab B.

Approve

[Signature]

Disapprove

Bill + Statement rec'd in Records Office: 9/19/75 11:45 am
To Thym Smith, Press Office 9/19/75 (NOON)

APPROVED
SEP 18 1975



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SEP 16 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 331 - Observance of Veterans Day
on November 11
Sponsor - Sen. Hruska (R) Nebraska and 18 others

Last Day for Action

September 22, 1975 - Monday

Purpose

Redesignates November 11 of each year as "Veterans Day,"
beginning in 1978.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval (Signing
statement attached)

Veterans Administration
Civil Service Commission

Approval
Approval

Discussion

The 1968 "Monday holiday" law, which established a uniform holiday schedule for the Federal Government, changed the observance of Veterans Day from November 11 of each year to the fourth Monday in October. Veterans Day had been traditionally commemorated on November 11 since the end of World War I. That date--formerly called Armistice Day--commemorated the cease fire arranged between Germany and the Allied Nations in 1918. In 1954, the Congress gave this commemoration broader significance by designating November 11 as a yearly tribute to veterans of all wars.

The enrolled bill would redesignate November 11 as the official date for observance of Veterans Day, beginning with November 11, 1978. Although there are no national holidays per se, existing law establishes the holidays which are observed by the Federal Government. As a rule, such Federal holidays are also adopted by State legislatures as State holidays.

This has not occurred in the case of Veterans Day. Since its designation as the fourth Monday in October, which was effective in 1971, there has been mounting pressure for return to the original date from all the major veterans groups and from interested citizens and Members of Congress. In reaction, 44 States have enacted legislation redesignating November 11 as Veterans Day within their jurisdictions; two other States never changed to the October date. As a result, there are now dual observances in many places, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Senate Judiciary Committee report notes that opposition to restoration of November 11 as Veterans Day has come primarily from those who have an interest in maintaining and encouraging three-day holidays--the recreation and vacation industries. The Committee concluded that, on balance, "The desires of veterans and many other Americans for a special date of commemoration is more important than...commercial interests...."

The Committee further notes that the delay until 1978 in reestablishing the November 11 date will promote convenience for those who arrange Veterans Day events, as well as the calendar industry.

Both the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) supported restoration of the original date in reports to the congressional committees on S. 331 and predecessor bills. S. 331 passed the Senate by voice vote, and by a vote of 410-6 in the House.

Recommendations

CSC, in recommending approval, states that it generally favors preservation of the Monday holiday observances established in 1968, but believes the Federal Government in its observance of holidays should not be inconsistent with the dates observed by the majority of the States.

VA indicates that it would have preferred an earlier effective date than 1978, but recommends approval, noting that the November 11 date has great significance to many citizens and is firmly rooted in our customs and traditions.

We concur in recommending approval and have attached a draft signing statement for your consideration.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures