

Public Law 111–94  
111th Congress

Joint Resolution

Proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

Nov. 6, 2009

[H.J. Res. 26]

Whereas Casimir Pulaski was a Polish military officer who fought on the side of the American colonists against the British in the American Revolutionary War;

Whereas Benjamin Franklin recommended that General George Washington accept Casimir Pulaski as a volunteer in the American Cavalry and said that Pulaski was “renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country’s freedom”;

Whereas, after arriving in America, Casimir Pulaski wrote to General Washington, “I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.”;

Whereas the first military engagement of Casimir Pulaski with the British was on September 11, 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, and his courageous charge in this engagement averted a disastrous defeat of the American Cavalry and saved the life of George Washington;

Whereas, on September 15, 1777, George Washington elevated Casimir Pulaski to the rank of Brigadier General of the American Cavalry;

Whereas Casimir Pulaski formed the Pulaski Cavalry Legion, and in February 1779, this legion ejected the British occupiers from Charleston, South Carolina;

Whereas, in October 1779, Casimir Pulaski mounted an assault against British forces in Savannah, Georgia;

Whereas, on the morning of October 9, 1779, Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded and was taken aboard the American ship USS Wasp, where he died at sea on October 11, 1779;

Whereas, before the end of 1779, the Continental Congress resolved that a monument should be erected in honor of Casimir Pulaski;

Whereas, in 1825, General Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the Casimir Pulaski monument in Savannah, Georgia; and

Whereas, in 1929, Congress passed a resolution recognizing October 11 of each year as Pulaski Day in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Casimir Pulaski is proclaimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

Approved November 6, 2009.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 26 (S.J. Res. 12):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 155 (2009):

Oct. 7, 8, considered and passed House.

Oct. 22, considered and passed Senate.