

**BY:** M. of A. Hyndman

**COMMEMORATING** the 81st Anniversary of the Signing  
of "GI Bill of Rights"

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 81st Anniversary of the signing of the GI Bill of Rights; and

**WHEREAS,** GI Bill Act of June 22, 1944 (Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill of Rights) put higher education within reach of millions of veterans of World War II and later military conflicts; and

**WHEREAS,** The GI Bill of 1944 is called "one of the greatest pieces of legislation in American history"; and

**WHEREAS,** The GI Bill of Rights or Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 provided for college or vocational education for returning World War II veterans as well as one-year of unemployment compensation; it also provided for returning veterans to buy homes and start businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** The GI Bill is considered by some to be the last piece of New Deal legislation; however, the bill which President Franklin D. Roosevelt initially proposed was not as far reaching; the GI Bill was created to prevent a repeat of the Bonus March of 1931 and a relapse into the Great Depression after World War II ended; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion is essentially responsible for many of the bill's provisions; the Legion managed to have the bill apply to all who served in the United States armed forces, including African-Americans and women; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the provisions were controversial; the GI Bill paid for the G.I.S entire education encouraged many universities across the country to expand enrollment; another provision was known as 52-20; this enabled former servicemembers to receive \$20 once a week for 52 weeks a year while they were looking for work; under 20% of the money set aside of the 52-20 Club (as it was known) was given out; most returning servicemembers quickly found jobs or pursued higher education; and

**WHEREAS,** Another provision allowed for low interest home loans for servicemembers which enabled millions of American families to move out of urban apartments and into suburban homes; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the "GI Bill of Rights of 1944"; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The American Legion.