



STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Proclamation

Whereas, 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the first truly global war, World War I; and

Whereas, on a street in Sarajevo on the sunny morning of June 28, 1914, a Serbian nationalist, 19 year old Gavrilo Princip, fired two shots into Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand's car, killing both the heir to the Hapsburg throne and his wife Sophie. The two shots "heard 'round the world" set in motion the events that led to World War I; and

Whereas, following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914. On July 29, Great Britain warned Germany that it could not remain neutral; and

Whereas, a remarkable series of events known as the treaty alliance system led to the scale of "The Great War." European nations mobilized and declared war on other nations in a tangled web of alliances, some of which dated back to Bismarck and the unification of Germany in the late 1800's. Europe was divided between the Allied Forces (Britain, France, Russia, the Serbian Kingdom, and later joined by Italy), and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire); and

Whereas, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1, declared war on France on August 3, and declared war on neutral Belgium on August 4. Great Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914; and

Whereas, as Europe was exploding into war, on August 4, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation of neutrality in which he urged Americans to be "impartial in thought as well as action"; and

Whereas, two specific events did much to change American public opinion about the war and her policy of isolationism: Germany's sinking of the neutral British ocean liner the *RMS Lusitania* that carried mostly passengers, including 159 Americans; and the 1917 Zimmermann Telegram in which Germany sent a coded message to Mexico offering United States lands to Mexico in return for Mexico joining World War I against the United States. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany; and

Whereas, Europe was engulfed in the First World War from 1914 to 1919. It was an extremely bloody war that was fought mainly in trenches and employed modern weaponry unlike any that had been used before. World War I claimed an estimated ten million military deaths, and another 20 million were wounded. Millions of civilians were also killed; and

Whereas, World War I led to the downfall of the German Empire, the Austria-Hungary Empire, the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas, at the end of 1918, an armistice was finally agreed upon; the fighting was to end on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – November 11, 1918. Many hoped it would be the "war to end all wars," but the controversial terms of the Versailles Treaty, the peace treaty that ended World War I in 1919, set the stage for World War II, the Cold War, and the current conditions in the Middle East.

Now, therefore, I, Brian E. Linley, Mayor of Del City, do hereby urge the citizens of Del City to reflect on the effects and consequences of World War I during this centennial year of that terrible conflict.

Witness my hand as Mayor of the City of Del City affixed in the City of Del City this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen.

Brian E. Linley

Brian E. Linley, Mayor
City of Del City, Oklahoma

