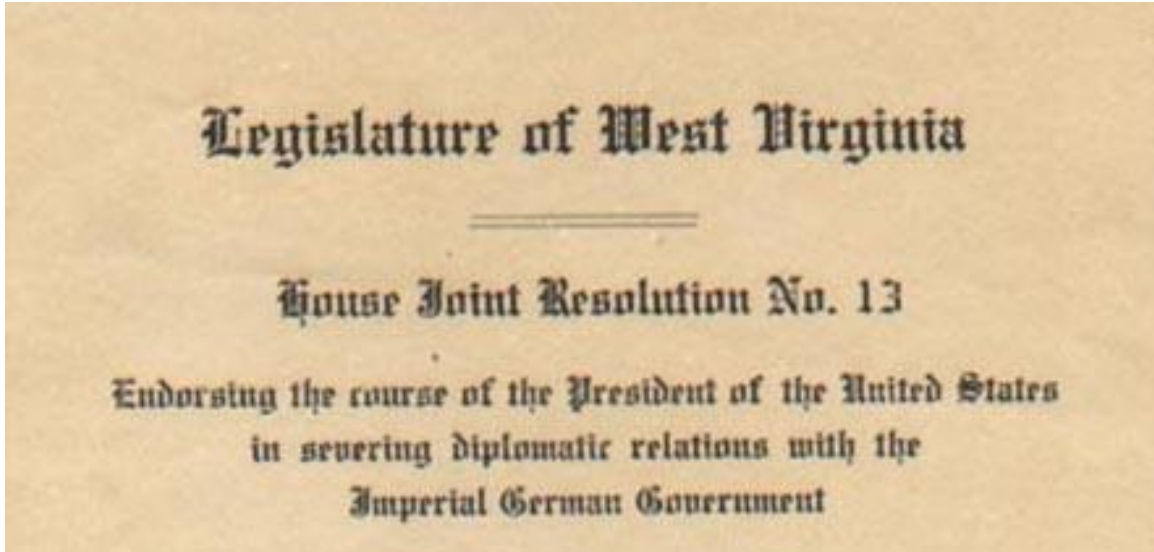


### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY FEBRUARY 5



**On February 5, 1917, the West Virginia House of Delegates passed a joint resolution endorsing President Woodrow Wilson's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Germany.**

**CSO: SS.8.24, ELA.8.1**

**Investigate the Document: (Ar1874, House Joint Resolution No. 13)**

1. Who was the President of the United States at the time House Joint Resolution No. 13 was passed? What course of action did the West Virginia Legislature endorse?
2. Why did the president want to break diplomatic ties with Germany?
3. To whom was this resolution sent?

**Think Critically:** Imagine that you are a World War I soldier in a battle such as Verdun or the Somme. What obstacles would you have faced? Why would offensive assaults fail? What were two causes that forced the United States to abandon neutrality and enter the war? Summarize Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. What is a joint resolution?

Legislature of West Virginia

House Joint Resolution No. 13

Endorsing the course of the President of the United States  
in severing diplomatic relations with the  
Imperial German Government

Be it resolved by the House of Delegates of West Virginia, the  
Senate concurring therein:

First: That we, the legislature of West Virginia, deeply deploring the international crisis that has called it forth, hereby express our hearty approval of the course pursued by President Wilson and the Department of State at Washington, in severing diplomatic relations with the Imperial German Government, following its note of January thirty-first, repudiating the pledges heretofore given to respect the lives and property of American citizens, and to insure the freedom of the seas. Believing that to submit to a violation of the fundamental rights involved would bring lasting humiliation and a loss of self respect, we endorse the clear and patriotic declaration by the President of a fixed purpose to invoke the power of the nation to maintain our honor and independence as a sovereign people. In an hour like the present, our usual personal and party differences are leveled before an exalted patriotism; and to maintain its rights and sacred honor among the nations of the earth, we pledge to our government the united support of the people of West Virginia.

Second: That a copy of this resolution, duly authenticated, be sent to the President of the United States, and a copy to each of our representatives in the Congress of the United States, with the request that they communicate the same to their respective Houses.

Adopted by the House of Delegates, February 5, 1917.

*Robert L. Hamilton*  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Adopted by the Senate, February 5, 1917.

*John J. Harris*  
CLERK OF THE SENATE.