



## American Institute of Parliamentarians

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Phone: 888.664.0428

Website: <http://www.AIPparl.org>

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### RESOLUTION TO HONOR HENRY MARTYN ROBERT AND HIS LEGACY

WHEREAS, Parliamentary procedure in the United States was first written in the Manual developed by Thomas Jefferson for his own use in presiding over the Senate of the United States;

WHEREAS, Henry M. Robert used that manual and its progeny as developed in the House of Representatives of the United States to write what is considered by many to be the first “prescriptive” manual of parliamentary procedure, *Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies* in 1876;

WHEREAS, That manual first produced by Robert and now revised and modernized by the Robert’s Rules Association has become an American standard for parliamentary procedure, with the most recent edition being published in 2020;

WHEREAS, Henry M. Robert had an illustrious career in the United States Army from graduation with honors at the U.S. Military Academy in 1857 to retirement in 1901 as a brigadier general in the Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, Henry M. Robert engaged in engineering and combat operations while serving in the United States Army, for example the “Pig War” on San Juan Island in 1859;

WHEREAS, In 1867, Henry M. Robert was assigned as the chief engineer of the military division of the Pacific and worked from San Francisco where he supervised the construction of the lighthouse and harbor;

WHEREAS, In 1873, Henry M. Robert was assigned to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he supervised the construction of lighthouses on the Lake Michigan and the harbor at Milwaukee;

WHEREAS, Under President Grover Cleveland, Henry M. Robert was appointed to a board of engineers to develop a deep water port on the Gulf of Mexico and helped to select Galveston, Texas, for this port then was the engineer on the project for the Corps of Engineers which project was completed in 1895;



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WHEREAS, President William McKinley recognized his achievements and appointed Henry M. Robert as brigadier general and commander of the Corps of Engineers prior to his retirement from the United States Army after 44 years of service in 1901;

WHEREAS, After retirement from the United States Army, Henry M. Robert continued to practice engineering and designed the seawall for storm protection at the Port of Galveston;

WHEREAS, After retirement, Henry M. Robert continued to actively write and improve his prescriptions for parliamentary procedure producing in 1915, *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*, in 1921 *Parliamentary Practice: An Introduction to Parliamentary Law* and in 1923 *Parliamentary Law*.

WHEREAS, Since the death of Henry M. Robert in 1923 his family has organized the Robert's Rules Association to revise and retain the values of the rules system he developed from his experiences in meetings and which in 2020 will be published as *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, Twelfth Edition;

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has before it on this date several bills which seek to rename certain military installations within the United States;

WHEREAS, At the time this is written some of these bills are within the annual appropriation bill for the Department of Defense and some of these are in other legislative vehicles; and

WHEREAS, General Henry M. Robert is a person whose military career was distinguished and whose contribution to our civil society and civil discourse through his teaching, his civic activities, and his writings on parliamentary procedure cannot be paralleled by any other American civilian or military commander;

BE IT RESOLVED That the American Institute of Parliamentarians does endorse and recommend this resolution to its members as a basis for any member who is so interested to write to the member's Senators and Congress members regarding the naming of military installations within the United States and that the American Institute of Parliamentarians does endorse and recommend to Congress and the Department of Defense that



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General Henry M. Robert be considered as a figure appropriately to be honored with the naming of a military base; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Defense, the National Association of Parliamentarians and the Robert's Rules Association for any action these may deem appropriate.