



*Charleston Village Society Inc
1127 West 4th Street.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
E-mail cvsilor@yahoo.com
Tel: 440-246-6046*

For the attention of State Representative Dan Ramos District 56

Dear State Representative Ramos and the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee,

Re: House Bill 579- declaring November 23rd as Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day for the State of Ohio.

As you are probably aware Admiral Ernest J King was born November 23rd 1878 only a hundred yards from the shore of Lake Erie, in a small cottage that is still standing on the east side of Hamilton Street (Ave) No. 113 } Lorain Ohio. From those humble beginnings Ernest J King went on to an illustrious career with numerous honors throughout that career such as :

Naval Aviator Wings, Navy Distinguished Service Medal (w/two gold stars), Navy Cross Spanish Campaign Medal, Sampson Medal Mexican Service Medal, World War I Victory Medal (w/Atlantic Fleet campaign clasp,)American Defense Service Medal (w/Atlantic Device) American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Grand Cross of the National Order of the Légion d'honneur (France), 1945 Croix de guerre (France), 1944 Commander of the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa (Panama), 1929, Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy 1933, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Military Order of Italy 1948, Order of Merit, Grand Official (Brazil) 1943 ,Naval Order of Merit (Cuba) 1943, Estrella Abdon Calderon (Ecuador) 1943, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (United Kingdom) 194, Order of the Sacred Tripod (China) 1945, Grand Cross of the Order of George I (Greece) 1946, Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown (1948,) Croix de Guerre (Belgium) (1948), Order of Orange-Nassau (Netherlands) 1949.

Admiral King was Commander in Chief, United States Fleet (COMINCH) and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) during World War II. As COMINCH-CNO, he directed the United States

Navy's operations, planning, and administration and was a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During World War II, he was the U.S. Navy's second most senior officer after Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, who served as Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief.

This Naval and American Hero had all but been forgotten as the decades since his death in 1956 this man who played an exceedingly important role in the allies and the United States in the winning of World War Two. Indeed even his little birthplace fell into decline. I am pleased to say with the co-operation of the City of Lorain Charleston Village Society (501C3) was able, with donations from the community of Lorain, to give Admiral King a token of the credit he is due by designating the area across from his birthplace as Admiral King Tribute Space. The area, which now has designated historical landmark status by Lorain County Historical Society, had a ceremony of designation on September 18th 2011. You can access the photos and videos here: <https://locophotoblog.wordpress.com/2011/09/20/admiral-king-dedication/> The ceremony was attended by many State, Naval and Federal dignitaries as well as representation of various Veterans Groups and members of the King family.



The City of Lorain has much to be proud of in her native son, but the pride should not stop here. The nation as a whole owes a great deal to this son of Lake Erie as does the United Kingdom and the allies of World War 2. It is only fitting the State of Ohio should honor him on the day of his birth as he honored this state and country on an international scale.

Charleston Village Society <http://www.loraincounty.com/charlestonlorai/> the Executive Board and members, respectfully request you honor Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King with declaring November 23rd as Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day. We are in total support of House Bill 579.

Yours sincerely

Loraine Ritchey

Loraine Ritchey Co Chair Charleston Village Society on behalf of the Executive Board and Members

