



*The City of Lorain, Ohio*  
*Chase Ritenauer*  
*Mayor*

---

May 17, 2018

The Honorable State Representative Dan Ramos  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Ramos,

On behalf of the City of Lorain and its residents, I wholeheartedly support House Bill 579 which would annually declare November 23<sup>rd</sup> Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day in the State of Ohio.

Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King, Ohio's highest ranking military officer, served as Commander in Chief, United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations during World War II. King was instrumental in building the dominant fleet that led to the United States victorious campaign against the Imperial Japan Navy in the Pacific which helped destroy the German U-boat menace in the Atlantic.

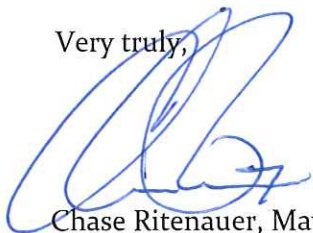
Fleet Admiral King served his country in the United States Navy from 1901 – 1945 in the Spanish-American War, Mexican Revolution, Battle of Veracruz, World War I, First Battle of the Atlantic, and in World War II. He received the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal with two Gold Stars, the Spanish Campaign Medal, the Sampson Medal, the Mexican Service Medal, the Atlantic Fleet Clasp, the American Campaign Medal, the Victory Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal, not to mention the numerous Orders and Decorations conferred upon him by foreign governments.

In addition, he was awarded the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, the Grand Lodge Medal for Distinguished Achievement by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and the Pennsylvania Society (of New York City) Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement. Honorary degrees from the College of William and Mary, Harvard University, Northwestern University, Miami University of Ohio, Princeton University, Bowdoin College and Oxford University in England were bestowed upon him.

Our hometown hero was impressed by the *Youth's Companion* article about the Naval Academy that he read as a young boy, which ultimately led to his appointment to the Naval Academy after

graduating from Lorain High School in 1897. His dedication and commitment to safeguard and protect our nation was unwavering, and his missions and efforts are well documented in books of history. As such, I respectfully ask for the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee's support of HB 579 to annually commemorate Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King.

Very truly,



Chase Ritenauer, Mayor  
City of Lorain, Ohio