

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1706

A RESOLUTION urging the President of the United States to honor the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient with a designated state funeral.

WHEREAS, World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Over 16 million Americans served their country alongside the Allied powers over the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, The men and women who served our country in World War II have been called the "greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, More than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to our nation's bravest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen since the creation of the award in 1861; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor was awarded to 353 Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Only two of these 353 Americans are alive today; and

WHEREAS, These courageous servicemen, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, risked their lives while serving their country with gallantry and therefore, deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States presents the Medal of Honor in the name of Congress; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state funeral; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the President of the United States has designated state funerals for former presidents, generals and other extraordinary Americans; and

WHEREAS, Our nation is currently divided and longs for a unifying national event; and

WHEREAS, Designating a state funeral upon the passing of the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient would be a fitting way for the American people to unite and to honor all of the 16 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen who served in our Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we urge the President of the United States to honor the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient with a designated state funeral; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Alley.

Senate Resolution No. 1706 was sponsored by Senators Alley, Baumgardner, Billinger, Bowers, Claeys, Corson, Dietrich, Doll, Erickson, Estes, Fagg, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hawk, Hilderbrand, Holland, Holscher, Kerschen, Kloos, Longbine, Masterson, McGinn, Olson, O'Shea, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Pittman, Pyle, Steffen, Straub, Suellentrop, Sykes, Thompson, Tyson, Ware, Warren and Wilborn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*