

1           **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE**  
2                           **ASSISTED KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

3   2016 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

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18 **LONG TITLE**

19 **General Description:**

20           This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor honors efforts to help  
21 Utah Korean War veterans receive the "Ambassador for Peace Medal."

22 **Highlighted Provisions:**

23           This resolution:

- 24           ▶ honors the efforts of retired Marine Corps sergeants John Cole and Jay Wells to
- 25 help Utah Korean War veterans receive the "Ambassador for Peace Medal"; and
- 26           ▶ expresses gratitude to Utah Korean War veterans for their service and sacrifice.

27 **Special Clauses:**

28           None

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30 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

31 WHEREAS, the Korean War is often called "The Forgotten War" or "The Unknown  
32 War";

33 WHEREAS, properly remembering veterans who fought in a conflict often described as  
34 "forgotten" is an essential expression of true gratitude;

35 WHEREAS, efforts are underway to see that all Utah combat veterans of the Korean  
36 War are located and recognized for their sacrifice;

37 WHEREAS, these efforts began in 2012 when John Cole, a retired sergeant in the  
38 United States Marine Corps and veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, addressed  
39 questions about his service from a young South Korean journalist while attending an event in  
40 Washington, D.C., commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War;

41 WHEREAS, other reporters and photographers, who spoke little or no English, listened  
42 carefully as Cole shared his story as the first journalist acted as interpreter;

43 WHEREAS, through these exchanges, Cole came to realize the South Korean people  
44 are deeply grateful for those who helped save their nation;

45 WHEREAS, Cole related that South Koreans do not see the Korean War as "The  
46 Forgotten War" but as the "Remembered War" because they still have a nation;

47 WHEREAS, when Cole returned home, he felt compelled to do more to highlight the  
48 service of Utah's Korean War veterans;

49 WHEREAS, Cole worked with Jay Wells, also a retired sergeant in the United States  
50 Marine Corps and veteran of the Vietnam War, to brainstorm what to do next;

51 WHEREAS, within a few short weeks, the two men forged connections to those in the  
52 business community that do work for the South Korean government, officials at the Consulate  
53 General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, and even those that talk directly to the  
54 President of the Republic of South Korea;

55 WHEREAS, arrangements were made for Utah combat veterans of the Korean War to  
56 receive the "Ambassador for Peace Medal" from the Republic of Korea;

57 WHEREAS, the costs for the medals are paid for entirely by the South Korean  
58 government;

59 WHEREAS, to receive the medal, a veteran must be from Utah and have served in  
60 combat during the Korean War between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953;

61 WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs assisted with the  
62 first medal ceremony, held in the Utah Capitol Rotunda in September 2014, and have  
63 continued to assist with seven subsequent ceremonies;

64 WHEREAS, members of the Republic of Korea's government, including Han  
65 Dong-Man, consul general of the Republic of Korea, have been present at each ceremony to  
66 recognize the assembled veterans and their families;

67 WHEREAS, Dong-Man has stated, "Without the heroism, valor and sacrifice of these  
68 Korean War veterans, our country would not have the peace, prosperity and economic growth  
69 that we enjoy today";

70 WHEREAS, since 2013, Cole's and Wells's efforts have enabled about 1,000 Utahns to  
71 receive the Republic of South Korea's "Ambassador for Peace Medal";

72 WHEREAS, approximately 17,000 Utahns served in the Korean War;

73 WHEREAS, at each ceremony, Cole and Wells learn of more Utah Korean War  
74 veterans, and they know there are many more Utah combat veterans of the Korean War yet to  
75 be honored; and

76 WHEREAS, Cole has said, "Some people have told us it's a project we'll never finish,  
77 but what are we supposed to do? It's a lot of work, tracking all these names down, but we want  
78 to get everyone we possibly can":

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
80 Governor concurring therein, honors the efforts of retired Marine Corps sergeants John Cole  
81 and Jay Wells who have helped Korean War veterans receive the "Ambassador for Peace  
82 Medal."

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express gratitude  
84 to every Utah combat veteran of the Korean War for their service and sacrifice.

85           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah  
86 Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea  
87 in San Francisco, the President of the Republic of Korea, John Cole, and Jay Wells.