

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING A STATE FUNERAL  
FOR THE LAST WWII MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Brad M. Daw**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution urges the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ provides an overview of the significant service provided by American soldiers in World War II;
- ▶ recognizes the unique esteem of those who received the Medal of Honor for their service in World War II; and
- ▶ urges the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, World War II, the most widespread war in history, lasted from 1939 until 1945;

WHEREAS, the United States entered the war on December 7, 1941, and proved indispensable to the Allies in winning the war;



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

30 WHEREAS, the generation of men and women who served our country in World War  
31 II has been called "the greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice in the face of global  
32 tyranny;

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

35 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, in  
36 the name of Congress;

37 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United States  
38 Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the  
39 risk of their own lives above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in military operations  
40 involving conflict with an opposing foreign force;

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

44 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 473 Americans during World War II;

45 WHEREAS, only two of those 473 Americans are alive today;

46 WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel Woodrow Williams of  
47 West Virginia both served their country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of  
48 their own lives and therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people;

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

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

53 WHEREAS, our nation is currently divided and yearns for a unifying national event;  
54 and

55 WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal of  
56 Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor all  
57 16 million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

59 Governor concurring therein, hereby urges the President of the United States to designate a  
60 state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature send a copy of this resolution to the  
62 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the  
63 United States House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the United States  
64 Senate.