

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Governor Eric Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle Day.

BOOTS

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Governor Eric
2 Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle Day.

3 *Whereas, Born in a farmhouse near Dana, Indiana, Ernie*
4 *Pyle went on to attend Indiana University, where he studied*
5 *journalism and served as an editor for the Indiana Daily*
6 *Student. He embarked on a professional journalism career*
7 *prior to graduation by working for the LaPorte Herald in 1923;*

8 *Whereas, Pyle covered the nascent aviation industry in the*
9 *1920s and 1930s - rubbing elbows with pioneer aviators*
10 *including Jimmy Doolittle and Amelia Earhart - but became a*
11 *national icon as a World War II Correspondent;*

12 *Whereas, Eschewing stories about generals and grand*
13 *strategy, Pyle focused on the G.I. He became the voice of the*
14 *rank-and-file soldiers called upon out of civilian life to fight the*
15 *biggest war in history. Newspaper readers in the United States*
16 *used his column to get a feel for what husbands, sons, brothers,*
17 *and uncles were doing in North Africa, Italy, France and*
18 *Germany before he moved to the Pacific Theatre to cover the*
19 *island-hopping campaign;*

20 *Whereas, Pyle's excellent reporting allowed those in the*
21 *States to almost breathe the choking dust, feel the concussions*
22 *of artillery, and see the brutality of war and the numbing*
23 *amount of death;*

24 *Whereas, In 1944, the same year he earned a Pulitzer Prize*
25 *for his work depicting the life of ordinary soldiers, Pyle*



1 suggested combat soldiers be given “fight pay” and Congress
2 acted, giving soldiers fifty percent extra pay for combat service
3 in what became known as the “Ernie Pyle Bill”;

4 *Whereas, After a visit home from the European Theatre,*
5 *Pyle felt compelled to return to the combat zone, this time in the*
6 *Pacific Theatre, despite premonitions of death because he felt*
7 *he owed it to the soldiers to continue to tell their stories;*

8 *Whereas, On April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle lost his life while*
9 *-serving as a war correspondent on Ie Shima, a small island just*
10 *west of Okinawa in the Pacific Theatre;*

11 *Whereas, At the time of his death, Pyle’s columns appeared*
12 *in 400 daily and 300 weekly newspapers delivered to 14 million*
13 *homes, offering Americans a unique view of World War II and*
14 *the Greatest Generation;*

15 *Whereas, The role Pyle played as a bridge between the*
16 *front line and the home front was so significant and strong that*
17 *Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal announced his death and*
18 *President Harry Truman offered his condolences to a nation*
19 *that avidly read his columns; and*

20 *Whereas, Pyle’s legacy is preserved at the Ernie Pyle*
21 *World War II Museum, which includes his birth home in Dana,*
22 *located in Vermillion County and is operated by the Friends of*
23 *Ernie Pyle. In Bloomington, one can find a statue of Pyle at*
24 *work outside of Indiana University’s Franklin Hall, where the*
25 *Indiana Media School is housed and inside Franklin Hall, one*
26 *can still see the desk Pyle used as editor for the student*
27 *newspaper: Therefore,*

28 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
29 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

30 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges
31 Governor Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle
32 Day in conjunction with the U.S. Senate designation of that day
33 as National Ernie Pyle Day as introduced by Indiana Senators



1 Todd Young and Joe Donnelly.

2 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
3 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Eric
4 Holcomb.

