

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II when such recipient passes away.

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

WHEREAS, the United States entered the war in 1941, following an attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese fighter planes; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government, is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress; and

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

against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States was not a belligerent party; and

WHEREAS, more than three thousand four hundred 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 three hundred fifty-three Americans during World War II and only four of those three hundred fifty-three Americans are alive today; and

WHEREAS, each of those courageous servicemen, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York, Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, risked his life while serving his country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity and therefore deserves the gratitude of the American people; 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 yearns for a unifying national event; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II when such recipient passes away.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives be instructed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States

House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and all members of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE