

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the President of the United States to
2 designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War
3 II.

4 WHEREAS, World War II lasted from 1939 until 1945, and the United States
5 entered the war in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States,
13 in the name of Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United
15 States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and
16 intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action
17 against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving
18 conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in
19 an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a
20 belligerent party; and

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

24 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 353 Americans during World War
25 II and only four of those 353 Americans are alive today; and

26 WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York,
27 Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel W. Williams of West Virginia all served their

1 country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve
2 the gratitude of the American people; and

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

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

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

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
13 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the
15 Commonwealth of Kentucky hereby urge the President of the United States to designate a
16 state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
18 copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States of America at The White
19 House Office, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington DC 20500.