

1 A RESOLUTION supporting South Dakota resident William "Bill" Casper in his
2 efforts to petition President Donald J. Trump to hold a state funeral for the final World
3 War II veteran to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

4 WHEREAS, over 16 million Americans served their country and its allies during
5 the course of World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, the generation of men and women who served the United States in
7 World War II has been called "the greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, more than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to our nation's
17 bravest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen since the creation of the
18 award in 1861; and

19 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 473 Americans during World War
20 II; only two of those 473 Americans are alive today; and

21 WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel H. Williams of West
22 Virginia both served their country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of
23 life, and therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II
2 Medal of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to
3 unite and honor those people who served our Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby supports South Dakota resident
8 William "Bill" Casper in his efforts to petition President Donald J. Trump to hold a state
9 funeral for the final World War II veteran to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

10 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
11 copy of this Resolution to President Donald J. Trump.