

Resolution 01_2021



A RESOLUTION relative to a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

and

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

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 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 is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor 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 distinguished 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 3,400 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 353 Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, only one of those 353 Americans is still alive today; and

WHEREAS, 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, Hershel W. Williams, a Past Commandant of the Department of West Virginia created the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation to locate, fund, erect and dedicate seventy-six Gold Star Families Memorial monuments in fifty states and/or US Territories, with seventy-four Gold Star Families Memorial monuments in progress; 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, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who served in our Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE 98th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING IN ASSEMBLY AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

And;

that this 98th Convention urges the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II when such recipient passes away.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Executive Director/COO of the Marine Corps League is 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 Marine Corps League in its next national publication.

By: _____
National Commandant/CEO
Marine Corps League

Date: _____ 2021