

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COPELAND.

4856H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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

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

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

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

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13 **WHEREAS**, the Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by
14 the United States government; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, in
17 the name of Congress; and

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

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

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31 **WHEREAS**, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 353 Americans during World War
32 II; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, only one of those 353 Americans are alive today; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia served his country with
37 conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve the gratitude of
38 the American people; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a
41 state funeral; and

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

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46 **WHEREAS**, our nation is currently divided and yearns for a unifying national event;
47 and

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49 **WHEREAS**, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal
50 of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor
51 all sixteen million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our Armed Forces from 1941 to
52 1945:

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54 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
55 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the
56 Senate concurring therein, hereby urge the President of the United States to designate a state
57 funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; and

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59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
60 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
61 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
62 United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States
63 Senate, and all members of the Missouri congressional delegation.

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