

By: Miller

H.C.R. No. 166

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, Over 16 million Americans served their country and  
5 its allies over the course of the war; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is presented by the president of  
12 the United States, in the name of Congress; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor was awarded to 473 Americans  
2 during World War II and only 4 of those 473 Americans are alive  
3 today; and

4           WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey  
5 of New York, Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel W. Williams of  
6 West Virginia all served their country with conspicuous gallantry  
7 and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve the  
8 gratitude of the American people; and

9           WHEREAS, The president of the United States has the sole  
10 authority to designate a state funeral; and

11           WHEREAS, Historically, the president of the United States has  
12 designated state funerals for former presidents, generals, and  
13 other extraordinary Americans; and

14           WHEREAS, Designating a state funeral when the last surviving  
15 World War II Medal of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way  
16 for the American people to unite and honor all 16 million soldiers,  
17 sailors, and airmen who served in our armed forces from 1941 to  
18 1945; now, therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
20 hereby respectfully urge the president of the United States to  
21 designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor  
22 recipient from World War II; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
24 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States.