HLS 19RS-3298 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

VETERANS: Requests the President of the United States to designate a state funeral after the death of the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last
3	surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II when such recipient passes
4	away.
5	WHEREAS, World War II, the most widespread war in history, lasted from 1939
6	until 1945; and
7	WHEREAS, the United States entered the war in 1941, following an attack on Pearl
8	Harbor by Japanese fighter planes; and
9	WHEREAS, over sixteen million Americans served their country and the Allied
0	powers over the course of the war; and
1	WHEREAS, the generation of men and women who served our country in World
12	War II have been collectively called the "greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and
13	WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the
14	United States government, is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of
15	Congress; and
16	WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United
17	States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and
18	intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action
19	against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving
20	conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an

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2	belligerent party; and
3	WHEREAS, more than three thousand four hundred Medals of Honor have been
4	awarded to our nation's bravest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen since
5	the creation of the award in 1861; and
6	WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to three hundred fifty-three
7	Americans during World War II and only four of those three hundred fifty-three Americans
8	are alive today; and
9	WHEREAS, each of those courageous servicemen, Charles H. Coolidge of
0	Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York, Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel
1	Woodrow Williams of West Virginia, risked his life while serving his country with
12	conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity and therefore deserve the gratitude of the American
13	people; and
4	WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a
15	state funeral; and
16	WHEREAS, historically, the President of the United States has designated state
17	funerals for former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans; and
18	WHEREAS, our nation is currently divided and yearns for a unifying national event;
9	and
20	WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal
21	of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and
22	honor all sixteen million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our Armed Forces from
23	1941 to 1945.
24	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25	urge and request the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last
26	surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II when such recipient passes away.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Louisiana House of
28	Representatives be instructed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President
29	of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States

armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States was not a

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1 House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and all

2 members of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 112 Original

2019 Regular Session

Armes

Requests the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient upon his death.