

By: Senator(s) Sojourner

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

1 A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES TO DESIGNATE A STATE FUNERAL FOR THE LAST SURVIVING MEDAL  
3 OF HONOR RECIPIENT FROM WORLD WAR II.

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

7 WHEREAS, over 16 million Americans served their country and  
8 its allies over the course of the war; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of  
17 the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through  
18 conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above



19 and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an  
20 enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations  
21 involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while  
22 serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against  
23 an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a  
24 belligerent party; and

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

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

31 WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel W.  
32 Williams of West Virginia all served their country with  
33 conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and  
34 therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

35 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole  
36 authority to designate a State Funeral; and

37 WHEREAS, historically, the President of the United States has  
38 designated State Funerals for former Presidents, Generals and  
39 other extraordinary Americans; and

40 WHEREAS, designating a State Funeral when the last surviving  
41 World War II Medal of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful  
42 way for the American people to unite and honor all 16 million



43 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen who served  
44 in our Armed Forces from 1941 to 1945:

45       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
46 MISSISSIPPI, That we hereby respectfully urge the President of the  
47 United States to designate a State Funeral for the last surviving  
48 Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

49       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Secretary of  
50 State transmit official copies of this resolution to the President  
51 of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
52 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States  
53 Congress, and to all the members of the Mississippi delegation to  
54 Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the  
55 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United  
56 States of America, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

