

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 69

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS.

5918H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, World War II, the most widespread war in history, lasted from 1939 until  
2 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 powers  
8 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 States  
20 Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the  
21 risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the  
22 United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign  
23 force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing  
24 armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; and

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

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

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32           **WHEREAS**, only four of those 353 Americans are alive today; and

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34           **WHEREAS**, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York, Robert  
35 D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel Woodrow Williams of West Virginia all served their  
36 country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve the  
37 gratitude of the American people; and

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

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

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

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

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51           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
52 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
53 concurring therein, hereby urge the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for  
54 the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; and

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

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