

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
COMFORT INN, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 1133

Submitted by William Whitmoyer  
Legislative Committee Chairman

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- WHEREAS, The United States of America entered into World War II in 1941, following the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, and over 16 million Americans selflessly served our country and our allies through the course of the war until Japan’s surrender in 1945; and the American people have referred to the generation of these selfless Americans as our “Greatest Generation” for their service and sacrifice during World War II; and
- WHEREAS, The time has come to prepare for a final salute to our 16 million World War II service members; and
- WHEREAS, 472 Medals of Honor, the nation’s highest decoration of valor, were awarded for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty” during World War II; and only ONE of those recipients, U. S. Marine Corps Veteran Hershel “Woody” Williams from West Virginia, survives today; and
- WHEREAS, General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander of the Pacific, and General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, were each duly honored by the nation with State Funerals; and
- WHEREAS, The selfless, brave men and women who served under them deserve the honor of special recognition at the State Funeral for the final Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; and
- WHEREAS, A State Funeral is a seven- to ten-day, national event, consisting of ceremonies within the state where the honoree was in residence, ceremonies within Washington, DC, and ceremonies in the state (or at Arlington National Cemetery) where the authorized individual has chosen to be interred; and
- WHEREAS, The President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a State Funeral; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28 - 30, 2018, approved Resolution No. 41: State Funeral For The Last World War II Medal Of Honor Recipient to “support a petition to the President of the United States, on behalf of more than 16 million veterans of World War II, to designate a State Funeral for the last living Medal of Honor recipient – not for one man, but to join together the hearts of millions of Americans in a unifying event honoring the legacy of all World War II veterans”; and

WHEREAS, Several U.S. state governments and myriad other organizations have issued Resolutions and letters of support to petition the President of the United States to designate a State Funeral for the last remaining World War II Medal of Honor recipient; and

WHEREAS, Designating a State Funeral for the last remaining World War II Medal of Honor recipient would serve to unite the American people to provide national recognition to honor all 16 million American men and women who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945; and

WHEREAS, In view of the foregoing, we, the membership of The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania, respectfully petition the President of the United States to designate that the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient lie in state on behalf of the 16 million World War II Veterans as a final tribute to their service and sacrifice to achieve world peace in troubled times; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania in regular meeting assembled at the Comfort Inn RIDC Park, Pittsburgh, PA, April 29 to May 1, 2022, respectfully urges the President of the United States to exercise his unique authority to designate a State Funeral for the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, as a final salute, honoring all of the 16 million American men and women of the “Greatest Generation” who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania respectfully encourages the Governor and the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to demonstrate their support by developing and issuing letters of support to the President of the United States and/or a Concurrent Resolution, to petition the President of the United States to designate a State Funeral for the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Pennsylvania and all members of both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and the leadership of the member organizations of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States of America.**

APPROVED  REJECTED  REFERRED  CONSOLIDATED  FILED