

Subject State funeral for last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient

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Date February 11, 2019

Overview

This bill proposes a resolution urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to authorize a state funeral, including an option for the honoree to lie in state in the United States Capitol rotunda, for the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Only four World War II veterans who were awarded the Medal of Honor remain alive today, one each residing in the states of Tennessee, New York, Oregon, and West Virginia.

Authority to designate a state funeral is a power of the President; authority for a person to lie in state in the United States Capitol is a power of the Congress.

State funerals are generally designated for current and former Presidents, but occasionally others are honored as well. According to records maintained by the organization supporting this resolution, the most recent non-President honored by a state funeral was General Douglas MacArthur, in 1964. State funerals involve multiple days of ceremonies, including events in the recipient's home state and in Washington, D.C.