

STATE OF MONTANA

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the United States entered World War II in 1941 following the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, and over 16 million Americans, including members of our "Greatest Generation," selflessly served their country and its allies over the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the United States government, and is presented by the President of the United States to members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, in action, involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force; and

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

WHEREAS, two of the 473 World War II Medal of Honor recipients are alive today: Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel W. Williams of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, these men nobly served in the interest of not only their country but also their fellow man, by battling the ruthless totalitarian powers which callously performed barbaric atrocities against their sisters and brothers in humanity; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state funeral; and has historically bestowed this honor on former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans such as the four men named above; and

WHEREAS, designating a state funeral upon the passing of the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient would unite the American people, as together we would honor all 16 million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

I, **Steve Bullock**, Governor of the Great State of Montana, along with my friend and colleague Lieutenant Governor **Mike Cooney**, respectfully urge the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

IN WITNESS THEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Great State of Montana to be affixed on January 30, 2020



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor



MIKE COONEY, Lieutenant Governor