

**House Committee on House Administration
Members' Day
November 21st, 2019**

Congresswoman Carol Miller (WV-3)

Thank you, Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis. It is a pleasure to be here.

Today, I want to speak to you about a Concurrent Resolution I introduced earlier this year which seeks to honor all our veterans from the Greatest Generation.

House Concurrent Resolution 10 will allow the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from the Second World War to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol upon their passing. During World War II, only 464 U.S. military personnel received the Medal of Honor and 266 of recipients were awarded the medal posthumously.

When I introduced this legislation in January, only four Medal of Honor recipients were still with us. Since then, those numbers have dwindled to just two: Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel "Woody" Williams of West Virginia, a constituent from my district who I am proud to call my friend.

Woody was stationed in the Pacific Theater during World War II. A young Marine, he fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal and in Guam, before landing on Iwo Jima on February 21, 1945.

On the day the flag was raised, Woody's unit was surrounded. Under a barrage of enemy fire, Woody charged ahead, flamethrower in hand, attacking the enemy and opening a gap in their defenses that enabled his fellow Marines to forge on.

For this display of heroism, President Truman awarded Woody the Medal of Honor. As part of his ongoing legacy, the US Navy christened the USNS Herschel Woody Williams in 2017 and the VA named their Huntington medical facility in his honor.

A lifelong West Virginian, who resides in Ona and he continues to advocate for Gold Star families throughout the country.

The bravery and dedication these great men, like Woody, have shown our country is why we need to ensure that this resolution is passed, to honor those that sacrificed so much to protect us from evil and tyranny. They must never be forgotten.

This bipartisan legislation is a great opportunity to do just that. Honoring our nation's heroes, like Presidents, Generals, leading members of Congress, and exceptional citizens such as Rosa Parks and Reverend Billy Graham, in the Capitol Rotunda and Statutory Hall is one of the highest honors this nation bestows and brings so much attention to the accomplishments of these incredible Americans.

Honoring the last surviving Medal of Honor Recipient will highlight the bravery and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation as a whole, from soldiers fighting tooth and nail overseas, to the Americans at home who gave up so much to power the war effort.

I ask the Committee on House Administration to consider H.Con.Res. 10. The legislation has a list of bipartisan co-sponsors and was included as a provision of the House-passed version of the NDAA, passing on a voice vote. It is so important that our nation never forgets the sacrifice that so many made to protect democracy and freedom all around the world.

Thank you again Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis.