

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

It is a great honor to write to you on behalf of countless Louisiana Veterans, and at the request of the State Funeral for World War II Veterans Foundation. The mission of this organization is to designate a single state funeral for the last Medal of Honor Recipient from World War II and to honor all 16 million men and women who served from 1941 to 1945.

Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded to 472 World War II Service Men and Women. Charles H. Collidge, Francis S. Currey, Robert D. Maxwell and Hershel W. Williams are the last remaining Medal of Honor Recipients. These patriotic individuals are the embodiment of sacrifice for the World War II era. As you indicated in your State of the Union address, this year will mark 75 years since the beginning of the liberation of Europe, and their service and dedication is exactly why they are referred to as "The Greatest Generation."

The inspiration for this distinctive ceremony came from a student in Texas named, Rabel McNutt. Rabel is the goddaughter of Sgt. Walter D. Ehlers, who was the most senior recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor at the time that he passed away. He personified heroism as an Army sergeant during the D-Day invasion as he, along with so many others, stormed the beaches of Normandy, France. After viewing state funerals held for President Reagan and General Douglas MacArthur, Rabel felt compelled to advocate for a state funeral honoring Sgt. Ehlers and his brave brothers and sisters in arms. Soon thereafter, the State Funeral for World War II Veterans Foundation came to fruition.

Although all of Louisiana's Medal of Honor Recipients have now passed, we are determined to honor and remind the nation of their bravery. Patriotism runs in our blood and we are always proud to do our part in the fight for freedom. We are so deeply proud of our service men and women and what they have accomplished and will continue to accomplish for

generations to come. For this reason, we can think of no greater tribute than to honor the last of our national heroes of "The Greatest Generation" with a state funeral.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator



Steve Scalise
U.S. Representative



Cedric L. Richmond
U.S. Representative



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. Representative



Mike Johnson
U.S. Representative



Clay Higgins
U.S. Representative



Garret Graves
U.S. Representatives