



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6016

Introduced by: **Representative Borglum**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the efforts of William "Bill" Casper as the**
2 **South Dakota state chairman of the State Funeral for World War II Veterans**
3 **in his efforts to petition President Donald J. Trump to hold a state funeral for**
4 **World War II veterans.**

5 WHEREAS, the state chairman of the State Funeral for World War II Veterans is charged
6 with petitioning the President of the United States to hold a state funeral for the final WWII
7 Veteran to be awarded the Medal of Honor; and

8 WHEREAS, over sixteen million Americans served their country and its allies over the
9 course of World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, the generation of men and women who served our country in World War II has
11 been called "the greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and

12 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the
13 United States government; and

14 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is presented by the president of the United States, in the
15 name of Congress; and

16 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United States armed
17 forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of
18 life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United
19 States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force,
20 or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed
21 force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; and

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

4 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded to 473 Americans during World War II and
5 only two of those 473 Americans are alive today; and

6 WHEREAS, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee and Hershel W. Williams of West Virginia
7 both served their country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and
8 therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

9 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state
10 funeral; and

11 WHEREAS, historically, the President of the United States has designated state funerals
12 for former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor
14 recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor all sixteen
15 million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945:

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
17 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that William "Bill"
18 Casper be supported as the South Dakota state chairman of the State Funeral for World War
19 II Veterans in his efforts to lobby President Donald J. Trump to hold a state funeral for World
20 War II veterans.