



HR0950

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 and raged
3 for three bloody years; 1.5 million United States soldiers,
4 including thousands from the State of Illinois, answered the
5 call to arms during the war; and

6 WHEREAS, The President of the United States may present
7 Congressional Gold Medals to Korean War veterans in recognition
8 of their contributions while serving under the United Nations;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The purpose of the medals are to express
11 recognition of the exemplary contributions made by Korean War
12 veterans, both U.S. and Allied Forces, who demonstrated
13 selfless acts during the conflict; and

14 WHEREAS, The Empire of Japan occupied the entire country of
15 Korea from 1910 until the end of World War II; prior to the
16 official Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945, the U.S. and
17 its allies prepared an arrangement to divide Korea horizontally
18 into two regions, North and South; and

19 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, the North Korea Peoples' Army
20 and their allies invaded South Korea; the U.N. Security Council
21 adopted a resolution to send U.N. Forces into Korea; on June

1 27, 1950, President Truman sent U.S. troops as aid under the
2 aegis of the United Nations; in October 1950, the Peoples
3 Volunteer Army of China entered the conflict by encroaching
4 into North Korea; in response, China's ruling party ordered the
5 immediate destruction of the entire 1st Marine Division, the
6 Republic of Korea Army Divisions, and the U.S. Army's 7th
7 Infantry Division, which led to the struggle to defend the
8 Pusan Perimeter; and

9 WHEREAS, A series of battles against the Chinese forces
10 took place throughout autumn 1950, including the Battle of
11 Inchon, the Battle of Naktong breakout, the Battle of
12 Seoul-Second, and the Battle of Changjin Reservoir, which
13 tested the capacity of U.S. forces against both the enemy and
14 the elements; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 25, 1950, Chinese communist forces
16 launched an all-out assault, swiftly overtaking the U.N. forces
17 and forcing U.S. and U.N. troops to withdraw south; battles
18 against the communist forces continued throughout 1951,
19 including the Battle of Seoul-Fourth, by far the largest
20 artillery operation of the Korean conflict; during this time,
21 U.N. allied forces from countries such as Australia, the U.K.,
22 and the Philippines assisted in combatting the Chinese
23 communist forces; and

1 WHEREAS, By 1953, at least another dozen battles took place
2 in an attempt to retake South Korea; the ground action was led
3 by U.S. and U.N. forces; and

4 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, the United States, North Korea,
5 and China signed an armistice agreement that ended the conflict
6 and created the demilitarized zone (DMZ), again dividing Korea
7 but failing to bring about peace; to date, the Republic of
8 Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of
9 Korea (North Korea) have not signed a peace treaty that would
10 officially end the war; and

11 WHEREAS, One of two principle objectives was to not lose
12 the war to the aggressors and the other was to keep Seoul,
13 South Korea from occupation by the Democratic Peoples' Republic
14 of Korea to the north; American combat troops and allied forces
15 from 16 nations helped secure this mission; today, Seoul's
16 vibrancy is possible because of those who served and
17 sacrificed; and

18 WHEREAS, It is the appropriate time for America to honor
19 the troops, including all United Nations allied forces during
20 the Korean conflict, and to award them the Congressional Gold
21 Medal; it is appropriate that these medals stand as evidence
22 that The Forgotten War is no longer forgotten, but forever
23 remembered; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 encourage Congress to authorize the President to present
4 Congressional Gold Medals to Korean War Veterans in recognition
5 of their service and sacrifice; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That following the awarding of the medals, we
7 urge that one Congressional Gold Medal be given to the
8 Smithsonian Institution and one Congressional Silver Medal be
9 given to the War Memorial of Korea, Seoul, where it shall be
10 available for display as appropriate and made available for
11 research; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we recognize and honor the service and
13 sacrifice of Korean War veterans, the brave men and women who
14 served honorably and those who paid the ultimate price
15 defending our freedom; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to President Donald Trump, U.S. Senate Majority
18 Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck
19 Schumer, U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, U.S. House of
20 Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and all members
21 of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.