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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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WHEREAS, The President of the United States may present Congressional Gold Medals to Korean War veterans in recognition of their contributions while serving under the United Nations Command (UNC), which was the first international unified command in history; and

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WHEREAS, The purpose of the medals are to express recognition of the exemplary contributions made by all Korean War veterans, both U.S. and allied forces, who demonstrated selfless acts during the conflict; and

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

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WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, the North Korea Peoples' Army and their allies invaded South Korea; the U.N. Security

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, the United States, North Korea,
5 and China signed an armistice agreement that ended the
6 conflict and created the demilitarized zone (DMZ), again
7 dividing Korea but failing to bring about peace; to date, the
8 Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic Peoples'
9 Republic of Korea (North Korea) have not signed a peace treaty
10 that would 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'
14 Republic of Korea to the north; American combat troops and
15 allied forces from 16 nations helped secure this mission;
16 today, Seoul's vibrancy is possible because of those who
17 served and 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

1 remembered; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to
5 authorize the President to present Congressional Gold Medals
6 to Korean War Veterans in recognition of their service and
7 sacrifice; and be it further

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 delivered to President Joe Biden, U.S. Senate Majority Leader
20 Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell,
21 U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of
22 Representatives Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and all

1 members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.