

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President,

We, members of the Montana Congressional delegation, write today to request your support for a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II (WWII). This national recognition would also serve to honor the 473 servicemembers who were awarded the Medal of Honor for service during WWII, along with the 16 million American men and women who faithfully served our nation, including many Montanans, during that war. The Medal of Honor represents the indomitable spirit, determination, selflessness and gallantry of those who, in the face of overwhelming odds, performed far beyond the call of duty.

The “Greatest Generation” represents the character and strength of Montana and the United States of America. For example, Montana’s very own Captain William W. Galt, U.S. Army, was awarded the Medal of Honor during WWII for gallantry, risking his life, while serving with the 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division. Unfortunately, Captain Galt, along with Montana’s other Medal of Honor recipients, have long since died – leaving just memories of their acts of heroism and opportunities to honor their service. We are determined to tell the stories of these patriots’ courage and valor during the war. Several state funerals to honor our war heroes have been held in the past, including the 1921 state funeral for the Unknown Soldier of World War I and the 1964 state funeral honoring General Douglas MacArthur, and they have offered our nation the opportunity to pause, reflect and honor the service of those individuals and those who served alongside them. Mr. President, you hold the authority to designate a state funeral and we request that you honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II with this distinction.

Mr. President, it is time to pay a final salute to the millions of men and women of the “Greatest Generation” who served our country from 1941 to 1945. Holding this state funeral to honor those who served in World War II, and in particular the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient, gives our nation an opportunity to publically thank those who saved the world from Nazis, Fascism and Imperialism. That can never be erased.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Greg Gianforte
United States Congressman