

4/30/2004 Moran Recognizes World War II Veterans

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Introduces Congressional Resolution to Thank Veterans, Celebrate Completion of National WWII Memorial

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced the introduction of a congressional resolution that recognizes the more than 16 million Americans who served during World War II, the 400,000 who died defending the country and the millions of men and women who supported the effort on the home front. The resolution also celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. During this year's Memorial Day weekend, thousands of WWII veterans from across the country will gather in the nation's capital to dedicate the new WWII Memorial on the National Mall.

"After years of planning, I am pleased that we, as a nation, are finally recognizing the selfless sacrifice and undaunted courage of the World War II generation with a national memorial," Moran said. "This resolution not only celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial, but it also recognizes the valor of those who served, the spirit of those who died and the strength of those who supported the war effort on the home front."

In 1993, legislation was signed into law authorizing the design and construction of the memorial. In September 2001, construction began on the memorial. It will be formally dedicated during a ceremony on May 29, 2004.

Moran's resolution also recognizes the efforts of National Chairman Senator Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith for their role in raising donations to pay for the construction of the memorial. In addition, the resolution recognizes the efforts of actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council and the History Channel for their role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and for raising support for the memorial.

"I've held a lot of titles in my life, but 'veteran' is the most important," Senator Dole said. "I'm proud to have been part of the national effort to honor those who served during the Second World War, whether in uniform or on the home front. And I thank all who made it possible - on Capitol Hill, in corporate boardrooms and in homes throughout the nation. Because of them, the WWII Memorial will now stand as a tribute to service and sacrifice for generations to come."

Moran's resolution is co-sponsored by the six members of the House who served in World War II, including Cass Ballenger (R-NC), John Dingell (D-MI), Ralph Hall (R-TX), Amo Houghton (R-NY), Henry Hyde (R-IL) and Ralph Regula (R-OH). The resolution is also co-sponsored by Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), the congresswoman who introduced the legislation to establish the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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