



SJ0056

LRB104 21023 MST 34936 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 and raged  
3 for three bloody years; 1.5 million members of the United  
4 States Armed Forces, including thousands from the State of  
5 Illinois, answered the 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  
8 recognition of their contributions while serving under the  
9 United Nations Command (UNC), which was the first  
10 international unified command in history; and

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

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

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

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 (Chosin) Reservoir,  
14 which tested the capacity of U.S. and allied forces against  
15 both the 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 within the  
8 peninsula; to date, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and  
9 the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North Korea) have  
10 not signed a peace treaty that would officially end the war;  
11 and

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

19           WHEREAS, It is the appropriate time for America to honor  
20 the troops, including all United Nations allied forces during  
21 the Korean conflict, and to award them the Congressional Gold  
22 Medal; it is appropriate that these medals stand as evidence

1 that The Forgotten War is no longer forgotten, but forever  
2 remembered; therefore, be it

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

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 delivered to President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Senate Majority  
21 Leader John Thune, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer,  
22 U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, U.S. House of

1 Representatives Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, each member  
2 of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, and all Ministry of  
3 Foreign Affairs with volunteer forces to the U.N. Command.