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LRB101 20524 MST 71250 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the
3 end of World War II, and Illinois was one of the states deeply
4 affected by the war effort; and

5 WHEREAS, When war was declared in December 1941, thousands
6 of men from Illinois enlisted, and thousands more came through
7 Illinois either en route to or arriving at training stations;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, By the end of 1945, Illinois had registered
10 1,954,674 men at separate local draft boards; of these, 629,516
11 were called to serve; an additional 328,338 enlisted on their
12 own, bringing the total number of men from Illinois entering
13 the services to 957,854; and

14 WHEREAS, The number of Illinois women joining the military
15 during the war was 13,587; counting those who already were in
16 the military and those whose National Guard units were
17 activated, Illinois supplied the U.S. Armed Forces with nearly
18 one million of its citizens during the course of the war; and

19 WHEREAS, From December 7, 1941 through September 2, 1945,
20 17,521 Illinois servicemen and women were killed in combat or
21 later died of wounds or injuries sustained in battle; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois was the home to several prisoner of war
2 camps, including one a few miles outside of Peoria in
3 Washington that operated from 1944 to 1945; the camp started
4 with 50 German prisoners who helped make K-rations for the
5 troops and expanded to over 200 prisoners of war; and

6 WHEREAS, In Peoria, production of earth-moving equipment
7 made by Caterpillar had already accelerated in pace due to the
8 federal Lend-Lease program, supplying goods and war materials
9 to Allied countries; Caterpillar tractors were already being
10 used by the Allies in the early stages of World War II, and
11 once the United States entered the war, production escalated;
12 bulldozers were vital to the war effort as they allowed the
13 creation of air fields and the cleanup of debris after battle;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, It is important to thank and honor veterans of
16 World War II, including personnel who were held as prisoners of
17 war or listed as missing in action, for their service and
18 sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor
19 the families of these veterans; and

20 WHEREAS, It is important to educate the public about the
21 history of World War II and highlight the service of the Armed
22 Forces during World War II and the contributions of federal

1 agencies and non-governmental organizations that served with,
2 or in support of, the Armed Forces; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important to pay tribute to the
4 contributions made on the home front by the people of the
5 United States during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the contributions and
7 sacrifices made by the Allies of the United States during World
8 War II; and

9 WHEREAS, It is important to remember the Holocaust, the
10 annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews by the Nazi regime, and that the
11 Nazis also slaughtered many other people based on their
12 ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, and sexual
13 orientations and to pay tribute to the Allied troops who
14 liberated Nazi concentration camps during World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to ensure that this
16 occasion is properly celebrated throughout the State; and

17 WHEREAS, The Commemorative Medallions Act (15 ILCS 555)
18 provides that the State Treasurer may issue medallions to
19 commemorate popular contemporaneous events of statewide
20 interest; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the State Treasurer is authorized to
4 issue official commemorative medallions honoring the 75th
5 anniversary of the end of World War II; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the State Treasurer shall contract for the
7 production, marketing, distribution, and sale of the
8 medallions; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge the National Veteran's Art Museum in
10 Chicago be included in the process of designing the medallion;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Treasurer to sell the
13 medallions at a cost that is in excess of what it costs to
14 produce each medallion and to distribute the excess equally
15 between the Chicago Veterans Home Member Benefit Fund and the
16 National Veteran's Art Museum; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 delivered to State Treasurer Michael Frerichs.