

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
1339 Longworth House Office Bldg.
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Member of Congress
1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.
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August 6, 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, the members of the Idaho 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 Idahoans, 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 Idaho and the United States. For example, Idaho has two of our very own Medal of Honor recipients: Captain Arthur Junior Jackson, US Marine Corps, who served with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment; and Robert Dale Maxwell, US Army, who served with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. Both were awarded the Medal of Honor during WWII for gallantry, risking their lives, and acting with valor.

Unfortunately, both Captain Arthur Junior Jackson and Robert Dale Maxwell, along with Idaho's other Medal of Honor recipients, have since passed – leaving only memories of their heroic acts. 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 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. To hold a state funeral to honor those who served in World War II, and, in particular, for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient, would give our nation the opportunity to thank those who saved the world from Nazism, Fascism, and Militaristic Imperialism. That should not be forgotten. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in blue ink.

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Michael K. Simpson in blue ink.

Michael K. Simpson
Member, House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in blue ink.

Russ Fulcher
Member, House of Representatives