SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 3

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Governor Eric Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle Day.

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BOOTS

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, read first time and referred to Committee on
SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Governor Eric Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle Day.

Whereas, Born in a farmhouse near Dana, Indiana, Ernie Pyle went on to attend Indiana University, where he studied journalism and served as an editor for the Indiana Daily Student. He embarked on a professional journalism career prior to graduation by working for the LaPorte Herald in 1923;

Whereas, Pyle covered the nascent aviation industry in the 1920s and 1930s - rubbing elbows with pioneer aviators including Jimmy Doolittle and Amelia Earhart - but became a national icon as a World War II Correspondent;

Whereas, Eschewing stories about generals and grand strategy, Pyle focused on the G.I. He became the voice of the rank-and-file soldiers called upon out of civilian life to fight the biggest war in history. Newspaper readers in the United States used his column to get a feel for what husbands, sons, brothers, and uncles were doing in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany before he moved to the Pacific Theatre to cover the island-hopping campaign;

Whereas, Pyle's excellent reporting allowed those in the States to almost breathe the choking dust, feel the concussions of artillery, and see the brutality of war and the numbing amount of death;

Whereas, In 1944, the same year he earned a Pulitzer Prize for his work depicting the life of ordinary soldiers, Pyle
suggested combat soldiers be given “fight pay” and Congress acted, giving soldiers fifty percent extra pay for combat service in what became known as the “Ernie Pyle Bill”;

Whereas, After a visit home from the European Theatre, Pyle felt compelled to return to the combat zone, this time in the Pacific Theatre, despite premonitions of death because he felt he owed it to the soldiers to continue to tell their stories;

Whereas, On April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle lost his life while serving as a war correspondent on Ie Shima, a small island just west of Okinawa in the Pacific Theatre;

Whereas, At the time of his death, Pyle’s columns appeared in 400 daily and 300 weekly newspapers delivered to 14 million homes, offering Americans a unique view of World War II and the Greatest Generation;

Whereas, The role Pyle played as a bridge between the front line and the home front was so significant and strong that Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal announced his death and President Harry Truman offered his condolences to a nation that avidly read his columns; and

Whereas, Pyle’s legacy is preserved at the Ernie Pyle World War II Museum, which includes his birth home in Dana, located in Vermillion County and is operated by the Friends of Ernie Pyle. In Bloomington, one can find a statue of Pyle at work outside of Indiana University’s Franklin Hall, where the Indiana Media School is housed and inside Franklin Hall, one can still see the desk Pyle used as editor for the student newspaper: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges Governor Holcomb to recognize August 3 as Indiana Ernie Pyle Day in conjunction with the U.S. Senate designation of that day as National Ernie Pyle Day as introduced by Indiana Senators
1 Todd Young and Joe Donnelly.
2 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
3 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Eric
4 Holcomb.