



Introduced Version

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to salute our American Heroes: the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, including Mr. Melvin E. Biddle, and to commend John Hodowal and IPALCO for their leadership in establishing the nation's only memorial to honor them.

PAUL, LANANE

_____ 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on



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First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to salute our American Heroes: the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, including Mr. Melvin E. Biddle, and to commend John Hodowal and IPALCO for their leadership in establishing the nation's only memorial to honor them.

Whereas, On the north bank of the Central Canal in the White River State Park, downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial will be dedicated on Friday, May 28, 1999, to begin the final Memorial Day Weekend of the 20th Century;

Whereas, The Congressional Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor. It is bestowed on those who have performed an act of such conspicuous gallantry as to rise "above and beyond the call of duty";

Whereas, As a symbol of heroism, the Medal of Honor has no equal in American life. Individuals who have received this medal for acts of valor have not been singled out to glorify war, but to recognize that, for all of its destructiveness, war can be the backdrop for extraordinary acts of bravery and for unparalleled courage in the defense of America;

Whereas, In a time when American children frequently look only to talented sports players as role models, IPALCO Enterprises' Chairman of the Board, John Hodowal, has had the vision to provide our youth with an opportunity to learn about some of our greatest heroes, those who have been



awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas, Mr. Melvin E. Biddle is Indiana's sole living Medal of Honor recipient who still resides in Indiana. He honors us today with his presence on behalf of all Medal of Honor winners. His Medal of Honor was for his courage and daring above and beyond the call of duty during a 20-hour battle during World War II which allowed his battalion to break the German hold on the Belgium city of Hotton with a minimum of casualties;

Whereas, The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial is being built through the extraordinary leadership of IPALCO Enterprises, its Board of Directors, and its employees. All work on the memorial will be completed with labor union workers; indeed, working on the project has become an honor among the tradesmen and builders of Indiana;

Whereas, The memorial will be composed of 27 curved plate glass walls, each between 7 and 10 feet tall. Indiana limestone will be used in part of the construction;

Whereas, Of the 3,410 people who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, there are 157 living recipients. Of these, a great number will be at the dedication of the memorial and will serve as grand marshals of the IPALCO 500 Festival Parade; and

Whereas, For their courage, valor, dignity, and honor, the Medal of Honor recipients serve as a continuing inspiration to us all: Therefore,

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor
- 2 are our greatest heroes and exemplify the American spirit. We salute
- 3 them and are proud for Indiana to be the home of their memorial.



1 SECTION 2. We are honored to have Congressional Medal of
2 Honor recipient Mr. Melvin E. Biddle at the Indiana General Assembly
3 on behalf of these heroes.

4 SECTION 3. The vision of John Hodowal and the leadership of
5 IPALCO Enterprises to fund the construction and maintenance of the
6 Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial is an extraordinary gift to the
7 Medal of Honor recipients, to the state of Indiana, and to the United
8 States of America. We commend IPALCO for its community
9 participation.

10 SECTION 4. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit a
11 copy of this resolution to each living recipient of the Medal of Honor,
12 and copies to John Hodowal, Chairman of the Board of IPALCO
13 Enterprises, to IPALCO Enterprises for their corporate headquarters,
14 and to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

