

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4617, by Representative Kochmar

1 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature recognizes and honors
2 the extreme bravery and honor that was displayed over 60 years ago by
3 James Hayden in both World War II and the Korean War; and

4 WHEREAS, James Hayden left his home of Kentucky in 1944 at the
5 age of 18 to serve in the United States Armed Forces; and

6 WHEREAS, On March 15, 1945, James Hayden was on a routine patrol
7 and found a tunnel after seeing a German soldier poke his head out of
8 it; and

9 WHEREAS, When Private Hayden charged inside to route the enemy,
10 grenade fire rendered his rifle inoperable; and

11 WHEREAS, Private Hayden immediately obtained another rifle and
12 charged back in, where he single-handedly killed two German soldiers,
13 wounded four, and captured 12 prisoners; and

14 WHEREAS, James Hayden was awarded the Silver Star for these
15 heroic actions; and

16 WHEREAS, Less than two months later James Hayden received a
17 Purple Heart after taking a German bullet to the leg, ending his
18 participation in World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, James Hayden's overwhelming patriotism led him back to
20 the action by 1950, when he served in the Korean War; and

21 WHEREAS, On December 1, 1950, James Hayden was captured in battle
22 alongside 100 of his comrades; and

23 WHEREAS, James Hayden miraculously survived years of harsh
24 treatment through the camaraderie of his fellow prisoners and his
25 Catholic faith until he was released nearly three years later on
26 September 5, 1953; and

27 WHEREAS, James Hayden's repeated actions of "just doing his duty"
28 have saved countless lives, touched the hearts of many, and reflect
29 an uncommon heroism and modesty; and

30 WHEREAS, The courage that James Hayden was able to express during
31 his time in Germany and Korea did not end when he finally returned
32 home; and

33 WHEREAS, James Hayden has repeatedly combatted tragedy with calm
34 and courage, and is an example to follow for his loving family; and

1 WHEREAS, James Hayden continues to inspire many with the valor
2 and honor that he showed in both World War II and the Korean War; and

3 WHEREAS, James Hayden never received his Korean Prisoner of War
4 and Korean Service Medals for various reasons, including a fire that
5 destroyed service records; and

6 WHEREAS, 61 years later on September 3, 2014, at a ceremony on
7 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Major General Terry Ferrell, commander of
8 the 7th Infantry Division, honored Retired Army Master Sergeant James
9 Hayden with a Prisoner of War Medal and a Korean War Service Medal
10 from the Republic of Korea;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
12 of Representatives join the citizens of the State of Washington, the
13 citizens of the United States of America, and the family of James
14 Hayden in recognizing his unwavering valor, courage, and dedication
15 to his country; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
17 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
18 Representatives to James Hayden and his family.

19
20 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
21 Resolution 4617 adopted by the House of Representatives
22 February 20, 2015
23
24
25
26
27

28 _____
Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk