

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

1       WHEREAS, James Hayden miraculously survived years of harsh  
2 treatment through the camaraderie of his fellow prisoners and his  
3 Catholic faith until he was released nearly three years later on  
4 September 5, 1953; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
24 of Representatives join the citizens of the State of Washington, the  
25 citizens of the United States of America, and the family of James  
26 Hayden in recognizing his unwavering valor, courage, and dedication  
27 to his country; and

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

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