

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to you today as members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation to request your support for holding a non-presidential state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II. With only one surviving medal of honor recipient left from the "Greatest Generation," this act would not only constitute a proper commemoration for this individual but honor all 473 World War II Medal of Honor Recipients and over 16 million Americans who served during World War II.

As World War II broke out, Arizona was still a young state, just shy of 30 years old. Yet our state's wild west spirit did not deter Arizonans from answering the call to defend our homeland, famously including our heroic Navajo Code Talkers. In the end, 1,452 Arizonans perished in the war while serving their country and defending our liberty.¹

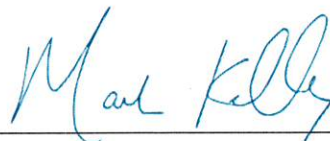
Of the 473 World War II Medal of Honor recipients, four Arizonans received the Medal of Honor for their bravery during the Second World War. Their names are Joseph Foss, Silvestre Herrera, Manuel V. Mendoza, and Max Thompson.² Arizonans from all corners of our state pay tribute to these men and all Medal of Honor recipients for their courageous actions and their selflessness shown during the war.

We respectfully request that you hold a non-presidential state funeral to honor those who served in World War II and our last surviving Medal of Honor recipient. There is no honor more fitting for a final salute to the millions of women and men who served our country from 1941 to 1945 than to allow Americans from coast to coast to publicly pay their respects for the sacrifice of those who served during the Second World War.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Mark Kelly
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/navy-casualties/arizona.html>;
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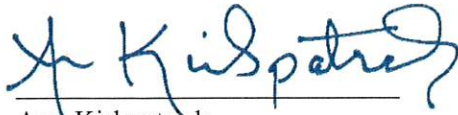
² <https://avhof.org/inductees/medal-of-honor-recipients/>



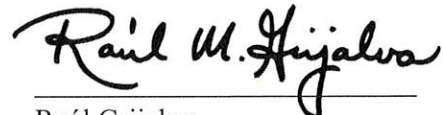
David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



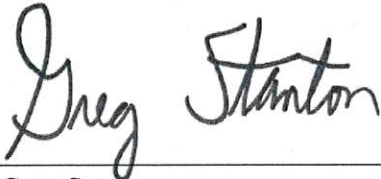
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress