

Senators Richardville, Birkholz, Kuipers, Van Woerkom, Jelinek, Hardiman, Allen, Pappageorge, George and Barcia offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 180.

A resolution to memorialize the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of Matt Urban.

Whereas, Matt Louis Urban (1919-1995), a native of the state of New York and later a longtime resident of the state of Michigan, earned the singular distinction of sharing recognition of being one of our nation's two highest-decorated combat soldiers during World War II; and

Whereas, His shared singular distinction was based on at least four extraordinary acts of bravery above and beyond the call of duty in battle that occurred on French soil first in Renouf, then near Orglandes, then at Saint-Lô, and finally, near Heer, Belgium, at the Meuse River, during the period from June 14, 1944, through September 3, 1944, as described in his Congressional Medal of Honor citation; and

Whereas, The records of his battlefield feats of heroism and inspirational combat leadership--having been lost in Washington, D.C., for some 35 years--delayed formal, public acknowledgement of his fame until 1980 when President Jimmy Carter presented him the Congressional Medal of Honor, citing his "personal leadership, limitless bravery, and repeated extraordinary exposure to enemy fire" during the aforesaid battles; and

Whereas, The near-paralyzing neck wound that Matt Louis Urban suffered during his final battle, earning him his seventh Purple Heart, required nearly two years of reconstructive surgery to his vocal chords, thereby causing him to concentrate on rehabilitation rather than combat notoriety and peacetime fame during the outpouring of public accolades directed to our nation's combat veterans in the press, tabloid, and entertainment industry following the end of the war; and

Whereas, In 1999, the United States Postal Service honored the second combat hero--Audie Murphy of post-war Hollywood fame--sharing the singular distinction for being one of our nation's two most-decorated combat heroes of World War II by including him in a commemorative stamp; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That this legislative body respectfully directs the United States Postal Service to redress its partial recognition in identifying the most-decorated American combat soldier of World War II by issuing a commemorative stamp honoring the worthy Matt Louis Urban; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Postal Service perform this necessary action expeditiously, both in the spirit of goodwill and of portraying accurately an historical aspect of World War II currently exemplified in other examples by the way of Ken Burns' acclaimed PBS documentary "The War," which not only serves to entertain, but also, most importantly, to educate our fellow Americans about the facts of our no-longer recent past and its "Greatest Generation."