

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are honored to write to you on behalf of all generations of patriotic Americans to recommend Hershel Woodrow “Woody” Williams for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This great distinction is reserved for Americans who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the United States. We believe Woody Williams, who has dedicated his entire life to service to our country, is eminently deserving of this honor. The example that he set during and after the military is truly deserving of our nation’s highest civilian honor.

Woody Williams is one of only two remaining Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. As a young Marine in the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division, Woody’s heroic act of storming four enemy pillboxes under tremendous fire, and continuing to fight through the entire five-week campaign on Iwo Jima earned him the Medal of Honor. His stories of service during and after the military have inspired future generations to serve our country and underscore why we call his generation the “Greatest Generation.”

Like many of the Greatest Generation, Woody came home from war to West Virginia and dedicated the rest of his life to service to others. For the last 75 years, Woody has committed himself to Veterans and their families and created the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. Through his foundation, Woody advocates for and recognizes the sacrifice of Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in the military. To date, Woody and his foundation are responsible for establishing 60 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the United States with more than 70 additional monuments underway in nearly every state.

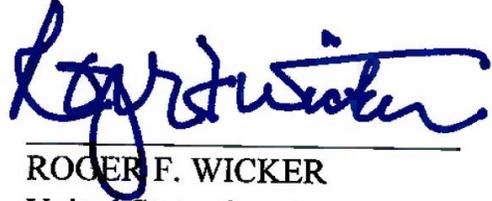
Woody’s unending energy and passion have been an inspiration to generations of young Americans across the country. He has spoken to numerous schools, universities, community events, and Veterans receptions promoting patriotism and the ideals of service above self. The West Virginia Legislature included Woody in the West Virginia Hall of Fame and named him a Distinguished West Virginian in 1980 and in 2013.

These achievements and many more illustrate a legacy that warrants recognition at the highest level. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of Woody Williams' legacy.

Sincerely,



JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator



SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
United States Senator