

By Dale L. Lenny

H C.R. No. 314

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has issued  
2 commemorative stamps honoring a wide range of people, places, and  
3 events significant to American culture, but despite repeated  
4 requests and a number of petitions, the postal service has refused  
5 to commission a regular issue stamp honoring one of the greatest  
6 war heroes in our nation's history, Major Audie Leon Murphy; and

7 WHEREAS, Audie Murphy embarked on his storied military career  
8 on June 20, 1942, when he answered his country's call to arms by  
9 enlisting in the United States Army; over the next three years, his  
10 courageous service in North Africa and Europe earned him every  
11 decoration for valor that our country offers, including the Medal  
12 of Honor, and five decorations from France and Belgium as well; and

13 WHEREAS, Following his return to civilian life, the most  
14 honored soldier of World War II launched a successful acting career  
15 in such movies as *The Red Badge of Courage* and *To Hell and Back*,  
16 which was based on his best-selling autobiography; he was also a  
17 songwriter, penning chart-topping hits for such diverse artists as  
18 Dean Martin, Porter Waggoner, Harry Nilsson, and many others; and

19 WHEREAS, Success could not erase the painful memories he  
20 brought back from battle, however, and like many soldiers who have  
21 endured the unimaginable brutality of war, he suffered throughout  
22 his life from what is now known as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome;  
23 long before society recognized this problem as an understandable  
24 and treatable reaction to extreme duress, he dared to break the

1 silence surrounding this misunderstood condition, speaking out  
2 candidly on his own experiences and urging better treatment for  
3 veterans of Korea and Vietnam; and

4 WHEREAS, After his death in 1971, Audie Murphy was buried  
5 with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery, and to this day,  
6 his gravesite is the second most visited site there, with only  
7 President John F. Kennedy's grave drawing more visitors; since his  
8 death, more than 10,000 petition forms have been forwarded to the  
9 postal service asking that a stamp be issued in his memory, but the  
10 postmaster general has replied that this heartfelt request to honor  
11 a true American hero is "not appropriate"; and

12 WHEREAS, To this day, Audie Murphy embodies for many  
13 Americans the spirit of patriotism, service, and sacrifice that has  
14 made our nation strong, and numerous statues, buildings, and other  
15 memorials across the country have been dedicated in his honor; yet  
16 despite the magnitude of his sacrifice and service, many young  
17 people today are unaware of the contributions Audie Murphy made to  
18 this country, and a postage stamp commemorating his achievements  
19 would be a crucial step in preserving his legacy and in  
20 demonstrating our nation's commitment to keeping his memory alive;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Recent postage stamps have paid tribute to actors,  
23 rock and roll singers, and even cartoon characters; a stamp issued  
24 in 1983 purported to honor all Medal of Honor winners, and a 1995  
25 special edition series commemorating World War II mentioned Major  
26 Murphy but did not dedicate an individual stamp to him; veterans  
27 and historians are united in their belief that a regular issue

1 stamp dedicated solely to Major Murphy is both appropriate and long  
2 overdue, and the continued exclusion of the single most decorated  
3 soldier of World War II from the post office's pantheon of honored  
4 individuals remains nothing less than a travesty, and an undeserved  
5 betrayal not only of Audie Murphy but of all his countless fellow  
6 veterans who gave so much of themselves to this country; and

7 WHEREAS, While Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, and Bugs Bunny,  
8 all subjects of recent stamps, are easily recognizable icons of  
9 American culture, Audie Murphy is much more than a representation  
10 of beauty, rock music, or comedy: he symbolizes the spirit of a  
11 nation that for more than 200 years has relied on its citizens to  
12 step forward in times of need and lay down their lives for the  
13 cause of freedom and democracy; Major Audie Leon Murphy answered  
14 that challenge unhesitatingly, and he deserves to be remembered by  
15 the subsequent generations of Americans who have enjoyed the  
16 liberty that he valiantly fought to preserve; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby respectfully express to the Congress of the United States  
19 its legislative support for the creation of a regular issue postage  
20 stamp honoring Major Audie Murphy; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
22 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
23 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of  
24 the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of  
25 the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
26 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
27 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

By Robert Lelling

**Memorializing Congress to express legislative support for an Audie Murphy commemorative stamp.**

May 29, 1997 Read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_ Sent to Committee on (Calendars)  
(Local & Consent Calendars)

\_\_\_\_\_ Read (comm. subst.), (amended) and adopted (failed) by a (non-record vote)  
(record vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_\_\_ present, not voting)

**Sent to Senate**

**CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

**OTHER HOUSE ACTION:**

Received from the House

\_\_\_\_\_ Read first time and referred to Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

Reported favorably \_\_\_\_\_

Reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute; Committee Substitute read first time

**Laid before the Senate**

\_\_\_\_\_ Consideration ordered by (unanimous consent)  
(\_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ days)

\_\_\_\_\_ Read, \_\_\_\_\_, and adopted by (a viva voce vote)  
(\_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays)

Returned to the House

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

**OTHER SENATE ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Returned from the Senate (as substituted)  
(with amendments)

\_\_\_\_\_ House concurred in Senate amendments by a (non-record vote)  
(record vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_\_\_ present, not voting)

\_\_\_\_\_ House refused to concur in Senate amendments and requested the appointment of a conference committee  
by a (non-record vote) (record vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_\_\_ present, not voting)

\_\_\_\_\_ House conferees appointed: \_\_\_\_\_, Chair; \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Senate granted House request. Senate conferees appointed: \_\_\_\_\_, Chair;  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Conference committee report adopted (rejected) by the House by a (non-record vote)  
(record vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays, \_\_\_\_\_ present, not voting)

\_\_\_\_\_ Conference committee report adopted (rejected) by the Senate by a (viva voce vote)  
(record vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays)