

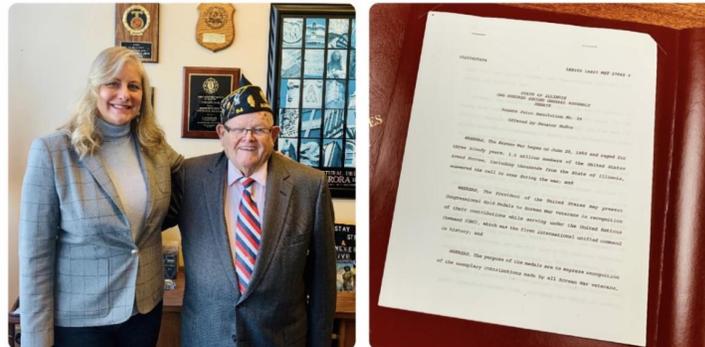
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

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## Honoring our Korean War Veterans



*(Top from Left to Right) Congressman Foster, Willard Fruits, Representative Kifowit*

There are over 500,000 Korean War Veterans still living almost 70 years after the cease-fire agreement was signed in 1953.

One of them is Willard Fruits, 90 years young, who lives in a rural area near Montgomery, Illinois. U.S. Army Combat Veteran Sergeant First Class Fruits remembers his length of service like it was yesterday. "I served from 1951-1952, 13 months, 21 days and 22 seconds."

While infamously referred to as the Forgotten War, The Korean War claimed the lives of 36,568 American Soldiers with an additional 103,284 wounded.

**To this day, U.S. Soldiers, who fought with valor, never received the recognition they deserve in protecting Democracy.**

That is why this past week I presented U.S. Congressman Bill Foster with Illinois Joint Resolution 34, which urges Congress to authorize the President to present Korean War

Veterans with Congressional Medals of Honor for their bravery and nobility. Veteran Sgt. First Class Fruits stood proudly as the presentation was made.

I worked with the General Assembly to gain full support to pass this resolution, in fact every member of the IL House is a co-sponsor on it. I, along with many others, feel strongly that we need to "right a wrong". These Veterans often felt forgotten and ignored, but not anymore. Not on my watch. This is a mission for me to be there for our Veterans.

If you'd like to read the full Illinois Senate Resolution click [here](#).

These brave Veterans deserve this recognition and honor. We lose over 600 of these every day according to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation. It's time they are honored. It's long overdue.

Congressman Foster's story is a personal one. "My wife is Korean, and the only reason she and her family are free today is because of the sacrifices of Americans, and by all of the U.N. contingent that fought a very important war," said Foster. "Many countries are free today because of the sacrifices of America and its allies 70 years ago."

Army Combat Veteran Willard Fruits was emotional at the thought of the President presenting Gold Medals to Korean Veterans all these years later. "I would feel proud to represent all of the Veterans we left behind," said Fruits. **"It still hurts."**

The Illinois General Assembly proudly recognizes our Korean War Veterans. Now the United States Congress must do the same. "The resolution has been delivered," said Foster. "We are going to do all we can to get this recognition for our Korean Veterans."

We are going to remember Willard Fruits and the other Korean Veterans. We will continue to work until we get this done.

Learn more about the Korean War [here](#).

Semper Fi!!



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