

United States Senate

July 28, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Exactly 70 years ago, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was signed into law, paving the way for millions of veterans to transition to civilian life. Through this legislation, veterans purchased homes, pursued higher education, and provided for their families. This law, more commonly known as the G.I. Bill, was developed by a distinguished Kansan and World War I veteran, Mr. Harry W. Colmery. Recognizing so many soldiers after World War I returned home to desperate situations, Mr. Colmery drafted the G.I. Bill in 1944 to support their adjustment to peacetime. Since its enactment, the G.I. Bill has gone through several iterations providing veterans across the country with opportunities to enrich their lives and pursue the American Dream following their service to our country. In honor of the landmark G.I. Bill's lasting contributions to our nation's veterans, we are seeking your selection of Mr. Harry W. Colmery as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

During World War I, Mr. Colmery served as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and became active in the American Legion upon his return in 1919, eventually serving as the national commander in 1936. Mr. Colmery's work with the American Legion led to the expansion of veteran hospitals and helped to treat veterans with non-service related injuries and conditions. Concerned that World War II veterans would face similar hardships, Mr. Colmery worked to develop ways to help the returning soldiers find jobs, enroll in school, and receive loans. His activism culminated in a first draft of the G.I. Bill, which unanimously passed both houses of Congress on June 22, 1944. President Franklin D. Roosevelt honored Mr. Colmery by selecting him to witness the bill being signed into law.

There are more than 21 million veterans and dependents who have utilized the G.I. Bill's benefits. In fiscal year 2012, nearly 9,400 Kansans availed themselves of opportunities to significantly enhance their livelihoods. As these American heroes begin their lives as civilians, they are receiving life-changing support as a result of Mr. Colmery's vision and dedication to those who serve our country.

Mr. Harry Colmery devoted himself to our country through his own military service in World War I and subsequent efforts to ensure the nation dutifully addressed the needs of our Armed Forces. America's investment in the G.I. Bill has provided service members with the benefits

they deserve and the results have strengthened families and communities. In honor of both his service and his profound impact on the lives of veterans and their families for generations past, present, and future, we request that you bestow the recognition Mr. Colmery so rightly deserves—the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Thank you for your consideration.



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



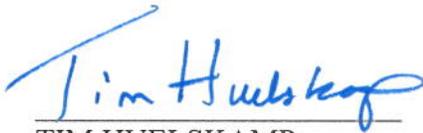
PAT ROBERTS
United States Senator



KEVIN YODER
United States Representative



MIKE POMPEO
United States Representative



TIM HUELSKAMP
United States Representative



LYNN JENKINS
United States Representative