

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 243

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to the public safety officers who have perished and select other public safety officers who deserve special recognition for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

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Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon, and a fourth in rural southwest Pennsylvania;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans and many foreign nationals were killed and injured as a result of these sur-

prise terrorist attacks, including the passengers and crews of the 4 aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency assistance personnel, and bystanders;

Whereas hundreds of public safety officers were killed and injured as a result of these terrorist attacks because they immediately rushed to the aid of innocent civilians who were imperiled when the terrorists first launched their attacks, many of whom would perish when the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed upon them;

Whereas thousands more public safety officers are risking their own lives and long-term health in sifting through the aftermath and rubble of these terrorist attacks to recover the dead;

Whereas the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–12; 115 Stat. 20) authorizes the President to award and present, in the name of Congress, a Medal of Valor to public safety officers for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the Attorney General of the United States has discretion to increase the number of recipients of the Medal of Valor under that Act beyond that recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board in extraordinary cases in any given year;

Whereas the terrorist attacks in the United States of September 11, 2001, and their aftermath constitute the single most deadly assault on our American homeland in our Nation's history; and

Whereas those public safety officers who have perished and those who lead the efforts to rescue innocent civilians from the terrorist attacks, are the first casualties and

veterans of America's new war against terrorism, which was authorized by the authorization for use of military force enacted September 14, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the President should award and present, in
 4 the name of Congress, a Public Safety Officer Medal
 5 of Valor to those public safety officers who were
 6 killed in the terrorist attacks in the United States
 7 on September 11, 2001; and

8 (2) the President should award and present a
 9 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to those public
 10 safety officers who have earned special recognition
 11 for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of
 12 duty as named—

13 (A) in consultation with the Mayor of the
 14 City of New York and Governor of the State of
 15 New York for the attacks on New York—

16 (i) Commissioner of the New York
 17 City Police Department;

18 (ii) Commissioner of the New York
 19 City Fire Department; and

20 (iii) Executive Director of the Port
 21 Authority of New York and New Jersey;

22 (B) in consultation with the Chair of the
 23 Washington Metropolitan Council of Govern-

ments, including the sitting Chairs of the Police and Fire Chief Committees; and the Fort Myer Federal Fire Chief, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the attack at the Pentagon—

(i) Fire Chief of Arlington County, Virginia; and

(ii) Police Chief of Arlington County, Virginia; and

(C) in consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the plane crash in Pennsylvania—

(i) Commandant of the Pennsylvania State Police; and

(ii) Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard,

or any of their designees, for their heroic actions on September 11, 2001, and thereafter during the rescue and recovery missions.

Passed the House of Representatives October 30, 2001.

Attest:

Clerk.