

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2303

To provide for the issuance of a “forever stamp” to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2007

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PAUL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WAMP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a “forever stamp” to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Perpetual Purple  
3 Heart Stamp Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Purple Heart is the oldest military deco-  
7 ration in the world still in use;

8 (2) the Purple Heart was first established by  
9 General George Washington on August 7, 1782, as  
10 the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known  
11 as the Badge of Military Merit or Decoration of the  
12 Purple Heart;

13 (3) the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of  
14 the President of the United States and may, among  
15 others, be awarded—

16 (A) to any member of the armed forces  
17 who is wounded in an action against or held  
18 prisoner of war by an enemy of the United  
19 States; or

20 (B) posthumously to the next of kin of any  
21 person who is a member of the armed forces at  
22 the time the person is killed or wounded under  
23 circumstances otherwise qualifying that person  
24 for award of the Purple Heart;

25 (4) more than 1,700,000 Americans have been  
26 awarded the Purple Heart; and

1           (5) the Purple Heart postage stamp, first  
2           issued by the United States Postal Service on May  
3           30, 2003, honors the sacrifices of the brave men and  
4           women of the armed forces who have been awarded  
5           the Purple Heart.

6 **SEC. 3. PERPETUAL PURPLE HEART STAMP.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to honor the  
8           sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces  
9           who have been awarded the Purple Heart, the Postmaster  
10          General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp  
11          suitable for that purpose.

12          (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, the term  
13          “forever stamp” means a definitive stamp which meets the  
14          postage required for first-class mail up to one ounce in  
15          weight, and which retains full validity for that purpose  
16          even if the rate of that postage is later increased.

17          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The stamp described in sub-  
18          section (a) shall be issued beginning as soon as practicable  
19          after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall not  
20          thereafter be discontinued.

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