

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1305

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2009

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MASSA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. POSEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BACA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Perpetual Purple
5 Heart Stamp Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

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

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

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

18 (A) to any member of the Armed Forces
19 who is wounded in an action against or who is
20 held prisoner of war by an enemy of the United
21 States; or

22 (B) posthumously to the next of kin of any
23 person who is a member of the Armed Forces
24 at the time the person is killed or wounded

1 under circumstances otherwise qualifying that
2 person for award of the Purple Heart;

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

5 (5) the Purple Heart postage stamp, first
6 issued by the United States Postal Service on May
7 30, 2003, honors the sacrifices of the brave men and
8 women of the Armed Forces who have been awarded
9 the Purple Heart.

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

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to honor the
12 sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed
13 Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart, the
14 Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a for-
15 ever stamp suitable for that purpose.

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

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

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