

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1500

To declare the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, a terrorist attack, and to ensure that the victims of the attack and their families receive the same honors and benefits as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. AYOTTE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To declare the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, a terrorist attack, and to ensure that the victims of the attack and their families receive the same honors and benefits as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

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 “Honoring the Fort  
5 Hood Heroes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.**

7 Congress makes the following declarations of policy:

1           (1) The November 5, 2009, attack at Fort  
2 Hood, Texas constituted an act of terrorism, not  
3 merely workplace violence.

4           (2) The United States Government has a fun-  
5 damental duty to our military service members to  
6 safeguard them against avoidable harm in the course  
7 of their service, and the attack on Fort Hood could  
8 and should have been prevented.

9           (3) Nidal Hasan, the perpetrator of the attack,  
10 had become radicalized while serving in the United  
11 States Army and was principally motivated to carry  
12 out the attack by an ideology of violent Islamist ex-  
13 tremism.

14           (4) Through his actions that day, Nidal Hasan  
15 proved himself to be not just a terrorist, but also a  
16 traitor and an enemy of the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. AWARDS REQUIRED.**

18           (a) PURPLE HEART.—The Secretary of the military  
19 department concerned shall award the Purple Heart to the  
20 members of the Armed Forces who were killed or wounded  
21 in the attack that occurred at Fort Hood, Texas, on No-  
22 vember 5, 2009.

23           (b) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEDAL FOR THE DE-  
24 FENSE OF FREEDOM.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
25 award the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of

1 Freedom to civilian employees of the Department of De-  
2 fense and civilian contractors who were killed or wounded  
3 in the attack that occurred at Fort Hood, Texas, on No-  
4 vember 5, 2009.

5 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**  
6 **AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPART-**  
7 **MENT OF DEFENSE WHO WERE KILLED OR**  
8 **WOUNDED IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 2009, AT-**  
9 **TACK AT FORT HOOD, TEXAS.**

10 (a) TREATMENT.—For purposes of all applicable  
11 Federal laws, regulations, and policies, a member of the  
12 Armed Forces or civilian employee of the Department of  
13 Defense who was killed or wounded in the attack that oc-  
14 curred at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009, shall  
15 be deemed, effective as of such date, as follows:

16 (1) In the case of a member, to have been killed  
17 or wounded in a combat zone as the result of an act  
18 of an enemy of the United States.

19 (2) In the case of a civilian employee of the De-  
20 partment of Defense—

21 (A) to have been killed or wounded by hos-  
22 tile action while serving with the Armed Forces  
23 in a contingency operation; and

24 (B) to have been killed or wounded in a  
25 terrorist attack.

1           (b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to  
2 a member of the Armed Forces whose death or wound as  
3 described in that subsection is the result of the willful mis-  
4 conduct of the member.

5           (c) COVERAGE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES.—Sub-  
6 section (a) applies to members of the Armed Forces and  
7 civilian employees of the Department of Defense suffering  
8 from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other  
9 psychological injuries as a result of the attack that oc-  
10 curred at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009.

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