

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 214

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. COTTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

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 “Monetary Enhance-
5 ment for Distinguished Active Legends Act of 2025” or
6 the “MEDAL Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Medal of Honor is the highest and
2 most prestigious military decoration of the United
3 States.

4 (2) To earn the Medal of Honor, “the deed of
5 the person . . . must be so outstanding that it clear-
6 ly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty
7 from lesser forms of bravery”.

8 (3) The actions of Medal of Honor recipients
9 inspire bravery, and the willingness to give all, in
10 those who serve in the Armed Forces and those who
11 will serve in the future.

12 (4) Those listed on the Medal of Honor Roll ex-
13 emplify the best traits of members of the Armed
14 Forces, a long and proud lineage of those who went
15 beyond the call of duty.

16 (5) Pursuant to section 1562 of title 38, United
17 States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
18 pay monthly to each living person whose name has
19 been entered on the Army, Navy, Air Force, and
20 Coast Guard Medal of Honor Roll a special pension.

21 (6) Recipients of the Medal of Honor have
22 earned a substantial and historic increase to such
23 special pension in recognition of their conspicuous
24 gallantry, unwavering commitment, and heroic ac-
25 tions above and beyond the call of duty.

1 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 2 **SPECIAL PENSION PAYABLE TO MEDAL OF**
 3 **HONOR RECIPIENTS.**

4 (a) INCREASE IN SPECIAL PENSION PAYABLE TO
 5 LIVING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.—Paragraph (1)
 6 of section 1562(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
 7 amended by striking “\$1,406.73” and inserting
 8 “\$8,333.33”.

9 (b) AMOUNT OF SPECIAL PENSION PAYABLE TO
 10 SURVIVING SPOUSES.—Paragraph (2)(A) of such section
 11 is amended—

12 (1) by striking “special pension under this sec-
 13 tion” and inserting “monthly”; and

14 (2) by striking the period and adding at the end
 15 the following: “a special pension under this section
 16 at the rate of \$1,406.73, as adjusted from time to
 17 time under subsection (e).”.

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