

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 572

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2009

Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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—

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

3 (2) the Purple Heart was first established by
4 General George Washington on August 7, 1782, as
5 the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known
6 as the Badge of Military Merit or Decoration of the
7 Purple Heart;

8 (3) the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of
9 the President of the United States and may, among
10 others, be awarded—

11 (A) to any member of the Armed Forces
12 who is wounded in an action against or held
13 prisoner of war by an enemy of the United
14 States; or

15 (B) posthumously to the next of kin of any
16 person who is a member of the Armed Forces
17 at the time the person is killed or wounded
18 under circumstances otherwise qualifying that
19 person for award of the Purple Heart;

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

22 (5) the Purple Heart postage stamp, first
23 issued by the United States Postal Service on May
24 30, 2003, honors the sacrifices of the brave men and

1 women of the Armed Forces who have been awarded
2 the Purple Heart.

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

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

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

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

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