

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5036

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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

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## 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 2024” or  
6 the “MEDAL Act of 2024”.

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 \$1,489.73, as adjusted from time to  
17 time under subsection (e).”.

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