

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2303

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

MAY 14, 2007

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PAUL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WAMP) 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Perpetual Purple
3 Heart Stamp Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

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

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

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

16 (A) to any member of the armed forces
17 who is wounded in an action against or held
18 prisoner of war by an enemy of the United
19 States; or

20 (B) posthumously to the next of kin of any
21 person who is a member of the armed forces at
22 the time the person is killed or wounded under
23 circumstances otherwise qualifying that person
24 for award of the Purple Heart;

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

1 (5) the Purple Heart postage stamp, first
2 issued by the United States Postal Service on May
3 30, 2003, honors the sacrifices of the brave men and
4 women of the armed forces who have been awarded
5 the Purple Heart.

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to honor the
8 sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces
9 who have been awarded the Purple Heart, the Postmaster
10 General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp
11 suitable for that purpose.

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

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

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