

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5293

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Ret. Col. Robert J. Graham for acts of valor while as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. BRESNAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Ret. Col. Robert J. Graham for acts of valor while as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) On May 1, 1966, during Operation Bir-
6 mingham in the Vietnam War, then-Captain Robert
7 J. Graham launched his F-100 Super Sabre from
8 an alert pad at Bien Hoa Air Base, despite being
9 grounded due to driving monsoon conditions. Along-

1 side his flight leader, he provided close air support
2 to an Army fire base which was under heavy attack
3 by enemy forces.

4 (2) During the first strike pass, Capt. Gra-
5 ham's plane sustained severe damage from enemy
6 anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) to the fuel boost pumps.
7 Despite the loss, he skillfully kept his engine run-
8 ning by relying solely on gravity fuel flow, forcing
9 him to fly barely above stall speed in hazardous
10 weather.

11 (3) As Capt. Graham attempted to return to
12 base with his crippled plane, an urgent request came
13 in for support at another army base, which was
14 being attacked by over 4,000 North Vietnamese
15 troops, with the enemy about to breach the con-
16 certina wire perimeter.

17 (4) Despite his battle-damaged plane and his
18 own survival highly unlikely, Captain Graham car-
19 ried on and executed strikes against enemy forces
20 under the guns of friendly Army defenders, a feat
21 never attempted in combat.

22 (5) With complete disregard for his own safety,
23 Capt. Graham made more than 15 passes, destroy-
24 ing all eight North Vietnamese AAA gun positions,

1 neutralizing over 1,500 enemy troops, and saving
2 hundreds of American lives.

3 (6) His actions turned the tide of the battle and
4 remain a testament to the highest ideals of service
5 and sacrifice.

6 (7) For his actions in Operation Birmingham
7 on May 1, 1966, Capt. Graham was awarded the
8 Silver Star.

9 (8) Ret. Col. Graham served four tours in Viet-
10 nam and flew more than 500 combat missions. He
11 enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1953 and
12 after completing basic training and flight school, he
13 continued to serve 26 years as a fighter pilot.

14 (9) Ret. Col. Robert J. Graham deserves the
15 Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions
16 on May 1, 1966, going above and beyond the call of
17 duty, where his undaunted courage in the face of
18 danger saved the lives of hundreds of his fellow
19 Americans.

20 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR**
21 **TO RET. COL. ROBERT J. GRAHAM FOR ACTS**
22 **OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

23 (a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwith-
24 standing the time limitations specified in section 8298 of
25 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation

1 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons
2 who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award
3 the Medal of Honor under section 8291 of such title to
4 Robert J. Graham for the acts of valor described in sub-
5 section (b).

6 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor
7 described in this subsection are the actions of Robert J.
8 Graham, as a captain in the Air Force, on May 1, 1966.

○