

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8973

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Rafael Peralta for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. VARGAS) 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 Sergeant Rafael Peralta for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 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 “Sergeant Rafael
5 Peralta Medal of Honor Authorization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On November 15, 2004, during combat op-
9 erations in Fallujah, Iraq, Sergeant Rafael Peralta,

1 United States Marine Corps, served as a squad lead-
2 er with Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines,
3 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

4 (2) During a house-clearing operation in the
5 Second Battle of Fallujah, Sergeant Peralta was
6 mortally wounded by enemy gunfire while leading
7 Marines engaged in close-quarters combat against
8 insurgent forces.

9 (3) Moments after being mortally wounded, an
10 enemy grenade landed in the room occupied by Ser-
11 geant Peralta and fellow Marines.

12 (4) Multiple eyewitness Marines reported that
13 Sergeant Peralta consciously and intentionally pulled
14 the grenade beneath his body, absorbing the blast
15 and shielding nearby Marines from death or serious
16 bodily harm.

17 (5) The actions of Sergeant Peralta reflected
18 conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of
19 his life above and beyond the call of duty, in keeping
20 with the highest traditions of the United States Ma-
21 rine Corps and the Armed Forces of the United
22 States.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that—

1 (1) Sergeant Rafael Peralta's actions on No-
2 vember 15, 2004, exemplify the highest ideals of
3 duty, courage, and sacrifice;

4 (2) Marines whose lives were saved by the ac-
5 tions of Sergeant Peralta continue to bear witness to
6 his valor and selflessness; and

7 (3) the United States owes a solemn obligation
8 to ensure that acts of extraordinary heroism receive
9 full and fair consideration for the Medal of Honor
10 regardless of administrative delay or statutory limi-
11 tation.

12 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR**
13 **TO SERGEANT RAFAEL PERALTA.**

14 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time lim-
15 itations specified in sections 8298(a) and 8300 of title 10,
16 United States Code, or any other time limitation with re-
17 spect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who
18 served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized
19 to award the Medal of Honor, under section 8291 of such
20 title, to Rafael Peralta for the acts of valor described in
21 subsection (b).

22 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.— The acts of valor
23 described in this subsection are the actions of Rafael

- 1 Peralta as a member of the Marine Corps in Fallujah,
- 2 Iraq, on November 15, 2004.

