

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2027

To amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 5, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and promote programs and activities honoring veterans and to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. AKAKA (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 5, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and promote programs and activities honoring veterans and to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances.

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 "Veterans' Pride Initia-
5 tive Act".

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE PRO-**
2 **GRAMS AND ACTIVITIES HONORING VET-**
3 **ERANS; WEARING OF AWARDS AND DECORA-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 (a) Subchapter II of chapter 5, title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new section:

8 **“§ 532. Establishment and promotion of programs**
9 **honoring veterans; wearing of awards**
10 **and decorations**

11 “(a) The Secretary may establish and promote pro-
12 grams and activities as specified in subsection (b) for the
13 purpose of honoring veterans, increasing public awareness
14 and appreciation of veterans’ service, and encouraging vet-
15 erans and their families to express pride in such service.

16 “(b) The programs and activities referenced in sub-
17 section (a) are—

18 “(1) programs to foster patriotism and pride in
19 veterans’ service by encouraging veterans and the
20 next of kin of deceased veterans to wear awards and
21 decorations earned by such veterans for the purpose
22 of patriotic observances on Memorial Day, Independ-
23 ence Day, Veterans Day, and such other patriotic
24 observances as the Secretary, in consultation with
25 the Secretary of Defense, may prescribe; and

1 “(2) such other programs and activities as the
2 Secretary may establish by regulation that are con-
3 sistent with the purposes of paragraph (a) of this
4 section.

5 “(c) Notwithstanding sections 771 and 772, title 10,
6 United States Code, the next of kin of a deceased veteran
7 may wear awards or decorations earned by the deceased
8 veteran for purposes of such programs and activities in
9 connection with Memorial Day, Independence Day, and
10 Veterans Day events, or such other patriotic observances
11 as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
12 fense, may prescribe.

13 “(1) For the purpose of this subsection the
14 term—

15 “(A) ‘awards or decorations’ means any
16 decoration, medal, badge, or ribbon bestowed on
17 an individual or unit; and

18 “(B) ‘next of kin’ means the surviving
19 spouse or parent of the veteran or any child of
20 the veteran under the age of 18.

21 “(2) The wearing of an award or decoration as
22 authorized in this subsection shall not be a violation
23 of section 704(a), title 18, United States Code.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
3 after section 531 the following new item:

“532. Establishment and promotion of programs honoring veterans; wearing of
awards and decorations.”.

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