

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1305

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2009

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MASSA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. POSEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BACA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Perpetual Purple  
5       Heart Stamp Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

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

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

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

18                      (A) to any member of the Armed Forces  
19       who is wounded in an action against or who is  
20       held prisoner of war by an enemy of the United  
21       States; or

22                      (B) posthumously to the next of kin of any  
23       person who is a member of the Armed Forces  
24       at the time the person is killed or wounded

1           under circumstances otherwise qualifying that  
2           person for award of the Purple Heart;

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

5           (5) the Purple Heart postage stamp, first  
6           issued by the United States Postal Service on May  
7           30, 2003, honors the sacrifices of the brave men and  
8           women of the Armed Forces who have been awarded  
9           the Purple Heart.

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

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to honor the  
12           sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed  
13           Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart, the  
14           Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a for-  
15           ever stamp suitable for that purpose.

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

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

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