

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1596

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Special Forces Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California 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 Special Forces Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the United States Army for acts of valor 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. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL**
4 **OF HONOR TO SPECIAL FORCES SERGEANT**
5 **RAMON RODRIGUEZ FOR ACTS OF VALOR**
6 **DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) At the age of 17, Ramon Rodriguez of Wil-
2 mington, California, began his military career when
3 he enlisted in the Army during his junior year at
4 Banning High School.

5 (2) While a Staff Sergeant in the Army, Ramon
6 Rodriguez served in Vietnam for 32 months during
7 the Vietnam War.

8 (3) During a mission in 1967 in Phu Bai in
9 Thua Thien Province, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez was
10 wounded while leading five soldiers to safety, for
11 which he received a second award of the Silver Star
12 in recognition of his “fearless action while exposed
13 to intense enemy fire”.

14 (4) In all, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez was award-
15 ed the Silver Star three times within a span of 34
16 days for his courageous service during the Vietnam
17 War.

18 (5) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez was awarded
19 three Bronze Stars with V and 2 Oak Leaf Cluster
20 and five Purple Hearts.

21 (6) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez re-
22 ceived a total of 17 combat medals and awards for
23 his service in Vietnam in recognition of his heroism
24 and acts of valor against hostile enemy forces.

1 (7) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez attended the
2 United States Ranger School and graduated with
3 distinguished honors.

4 (8) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez led the Special
5 Forces scuba team at Ford Gulick, Canal Zone,
6 Panama, and directed several rescue missions.

7 (9) In 1981, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez earned
8 the rank of Command Sergeant Major at the United
9 States Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss,
10 Texas.

11 (10) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez was
12 nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor in
13 1982.

14 (11) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez com-
15 pleted two more assignments before officially retiring
16 from the Army in 1983.

17 (12) On June 11, 2008, Command Sergeant
18 Major Rodriguez was inducted as a member of the
19 Ranger Hall of Fame.

20 (13) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez is
21 known to be one of the most decorated combat sol-
22 diers who served in the Vietnam War.

23 (14) Rodriguez currently serves as the Chair-
24 man of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commis-
25 sion for the County of Los Angeles, California.

1 (b) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwith-
2 standing the time limitations specified in section 3744 of
3 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation
4 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons
5 who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award
6 the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to
7 Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the
8 United States Army for acts of valor, sacrifice, and cour-
9 age at the risk of his own life beyond the call of duty dur-
10 ing the Vietnam War.

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