

153rd CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.13

To authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Lewis
Burwell Puller for acts of valor

IN THE SENATE

June 4, 2022

Mr. Wolf of Georgia (for himself) introduced the following bill

AN ACT

To authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Lewis
Burwell Puller for acts of valor

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Posthumously Awarding the Medal of Honor to Lewis
Burwell Puller Act of 2021”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

Congress Finds the Following

- (a) Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell Puller enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1918, serving in Nicaragua, Haiti, the Second World War, and the Korean War.
- (b) Puller was awarded five Navy Crosses, one Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, and a Purple Heart for his service in the United States Marine Corps, being the most decorated Marine in American history.
- (c) Between February and August 1930, with intelligent and forceful leadership, while disregarding his own personal safety, by great physical exertion and by suffering many hardships, Lieutenant Puller surmounted all obstacles and dealt five successive and severe blows against organized banditry in the Republic of Nicaragua.
- (d) During the Second World War, in 1944, at the Battle of Cape Gloucester, Puller temporarily took command of a Marine battalion after both the battalion commander and executive officer were wounded. He unhesitatingly exposed himself to rifle, machine-gun and mortar fire from strongly entrenched Japanese positions to move from company to company in his front lines, reorganizing and maintaining a critical position along a fire-swept ridge.
- (e) In September 1942, at the Battle of Guadalcanal. Puller, on his own authority, led a mission to rescue nearly 400 Marines trapped behind enemy lines. With the use of decisive initiative, Puller managed to rescue the encircled Marines, who were outnumbered 10:1 by the Japanese, behind enemy lines, preventing many from being killed in action. Going far beyond his authority to rescue his fellow Marines.
- (f) Through his actions which were instrumental in saving the lives of his fellow brothers in arms, he demonstrated the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS BURWELL PULLER FOR ACTS OF VALOR.

- (a) **WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 7271 of such title to Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell Puller for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).
- (b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell Puller, in Section 1) of this act, as a member of the Marine Corps.

SEC. 4. ENACTMENT.

EFFECTIVE DATE.— The provisions of this Act shall come into force immediately upon passage.

