

141st Congress
1st Session

S.9

To authorize the President to reward Retired Colonel Ralph Puckett Jr. the Medal of Honor for his heroic acts during the Korean War.

IN THE SENATE

MAY 19, 2021

Mr. MILLER (for himself, Mr. O’CONNOR) introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To authorize the President to reward Retired Colonel Ralph Puckett Jr. the Medal of Honor for his heroic acts during the Korean War.

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 “Colonel Ralph Puckett Medal of Honor Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that:

- (1) Ralph Puckett was a 2nd Lieutenant during the Battle of Hill 205 during the Korean War.
- (2) At 2100 hours on November 25, 1950, the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) launched the first six human wave assaults against Puckett and his group of Army Rangers.
- (3) In the assaults by the CCF, Puckett and a few other men received severe injuries. Puckett refused to be evacuated and instead continued fighting the CCF.
- (4) Around midnight, Puckett moved to fight off the incoming sixth wave of attacks, where he received a second wound in his shoulder.
- (5) After the CCF launched their sixth wave, the few surviving Rangers, including Puckett, were pushed off of the hill. Puckett, who had received wounds to both feet, his thighs, buttocks, and his left shoulder, was carried down the hill by two of his fellow soldiers.

- (6) Even though Puckett would be out of the war soon, for his acts in the Battle he was rewarded the first of his two Distinguished Service Crosses.
- (7) Although Puckett retired in 1971, he served as an Honorary Colonel for the 75th Ranger Regiment from 1996-2006.

SEC. 3. MEDAL OF HONOR.

- (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 Retired Colonel Ralph Puckett Jr. 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 Retired Colonel Ralph Puckett Jr. on November 25, 1950, as a member of the Army serving in Korea during the Korean War fighting in the Battle of Hill 205, in which he was rewarded.

SEC. 4. ENACTMENT.

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