

137TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 8

To rescind the Medals of Honor awarded for acts at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29,
1890.

IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 18, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. WHITE)
introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To rescind the Medals of Honor awarded for acts at Wounded Knee Creek on
December 29, 1890.

Be it enacted by the Senate in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Knee Massacre Medal of Honor Rescission Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2 FINDINGS

(a) Congress finds that:

- (1) The Medal of Honor is the highest award of the United States for military valor in action.
- (2) The Medal is awarded to any military service member who “distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

(a) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

- (b) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (c) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.”
- (3) The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,507 individuals, with 20 being for the Wounded Knee massacre.
- (4) The Medal of Honor is awarded in the name of Congress.
- (5) The actions at Wounded Knee Creek by the United States Army, 7th Cavalry, which have become known as the “Wounded Knee Massacre”, resulted in the deaths or injuries of approximately 350–375 Native Americans, almost two-thirds of whom were women and children.
- (6) 20 Medals of Honor were awarded to soldiers of the United States Army, 7th Cavalry for actions at the Wounded Knee Massacre.
- (7) A member of the Great Sioux Nation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, passed Tribal Council Resolution No. 132–01, requesting the Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers for actions at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29, 1890 be rescinded in 2001.
- (8) The National Congress of American Indians passed two resolutions condemning the awarding and calling on the U.S. government to rescind them in 2001.

SEC. 3 RESCISSION OF MEDALS OF HONOR

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the twenty Medals of Honor awarded for actions at the “Wounded Knee Massacre” on December 29, 1890 is hereby rescinded.
- (b) The name of each individual awarded a Medal of Honor for actions described in subsection (a) shall be removed from the Medal of Honor Roll of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
- (c) Medals of Honor rescinded under this Act may be retained by their current owners.

SEC. 4 ENACTMENT.

EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall go into effect immediately upon passage.
