
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 172 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, AUMENT, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE,
HACKETT, C. HARRIS, JAMES, M. K. KELLER, KORTZ, KOTIK,
MARSICO, MILLARD, RAPP, SNYDER, SWANGER AND SCHLEGEL CULVER,
MARCH 18, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 18, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Beseeching the United States Department of Defense to reconsider
2 the order of precedence for the newly created Distinguished
3 Warfare Medal.

4 WHEREAS, In February of 2013, the United States Department of
5 Defense introduced a new medal to be known as the Distinguished
6 Warfare Medal; and

7 WHEREAS, The medal is intended to recognize military
8 achievement in cyberwarfare or combat drone operations for
9 engagements that do not include valor in live combat; and

10 WHEREAS, The new medal is the first combat-related award to
11 be created since the Bronze Star in 1944; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense has
13 indicated that the new medal is to be ranked higher than the
14 Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and other medals awarded to those
15 who have participated in active combat; and

16 WHEREAS, The Bronze Star is the fourth highest combat
17 decoration and rewards meritorious service in battle; and

1 WHEREAS, The Pentagon has indicated that the new medal gives
2 the military a way to recognize a single act that directly
3 affects a combat operation, does not involve an act of valor and
4 warrants an award higher than the Bronze Star; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pentagon has also indicated that the newly
6 created medal will reflect the changing nature of warfare in the
7 21st Century; and

8 WHEREAS, The decision to rank the Distinguished Warfare Medal
9 higher than the Bronze Star, including a Bronze Star with "V"
10 Device, which honors heroic conduct in combat, has been
11 condemned by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order
12 of the Purple Heart; and

13 WHEREAS, Veterans and lawmakers across the country have
14 complained that troops can get the new medal for actions taken
15 far removed from the combat theater and that the ranking of the
16 new medal above those medals awarded to individuals who served
17 on the front line in harm's way, is not justifiable; and

18 WHEREAS, Because of the growing backlash that has ensued
19 relating to the new medal, the Pentagon has announced that
20 production of the new medal for remote warfare troops has been
21 stopped while the Pentagon considers complaints from veterans
22 and lawmakers, including United States Congressmen from across
23 the country over the ranking of the new medal; and

24 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense has ordered the Chairman of
25 the Joint Chiefs of Staff to review how the medal is ranked
26 among the others and report back to the Secretary of Defense in
27 30 days; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives beseech the
29 United States Department of Defense to reconsider the order of
30 precedence of the newly created Distinguished Warfare Medal; and

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense,
4 the presiding officers of each House of Congress and to each
5 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.