

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9114

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2024

Mr. CORREA 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 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. In that time, then-Staff Sergeant
8 Major Rodriguez received a total of 17 combat med-
9 als and awards in recognition of his heroism and
10 acts of valor against hostile enemy forces.

11 (3) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez's courage in com-
12 bat has earned him the distinction of being one of
13 the most decorated combat soldiers who served in
14 Vietnam.

15 (4) For fearless actions while wounded and ex-
16 posed to intense enemy fire, Staff Sergeant
17 Rodriguez's distinguished service was further ac-
18 knowledged by three Bronze Stars with V, 2 Oak
19 Leaf Clusters, and five Purple Hearts.

20 (5) On August 16, 1967, he volunteered to
21 guide a helicopter pilot by flashlight to evacuate
22 wounded platoon members. The helicopter was the
23 target of concentrated enemy fire, yet Staff Sergeant
24 Ramirez remained exposed until he had directed the
25 aircraft into the pick-up zone. Staff Sergeant Rodri-

1 guez was awarded the Army Commendation Medal
2 for Heroism.

3 (6) On November 8, 1967, Staff Sergeant
4 Rodriguez entered a Viet Cong tunnel complex that
5 he knew was occupied by the enemy. Despite the
6 risk of cave-in, he employed grenades to root out the
7 enemy and cover the tunnel exits to prevent their es-
8 cape.

9 (7) On January 24, 1968, his outpost came
10 under a heavy barrage of enemy mortars, followed
11 by a ground assault. The platoon leader was mor-
12 tally wounded, and Staff Sergeant Rodriguez imme-
13 diately assumed command of the platoon. The enemy
14 force was able to breach the perimeter and Staff
15 Sergeant Rodriguez, though wounded himself, began
16 moving through the trench line administering aid to
17 the wounded personnel while leveling intense fire
18 that killed four enemy sappers. After the casualties
19 were moved to a safe area, he rallied the four re-
20 maining men of the platoon, and courageously man-
21 aged to hold off the enemy onslaught.

22 (8) On February 26, 1968, Staff Sergeant
23 Rodriguez's platoon was ambushed during a search
24 and clear mission. The platoon leader and the lead
25 man were seriously wounded, and the platoon was

1 pinned down by enemy fire. Staff Sergeant Rodri-
2 guez assumed command and maneuvered the platoon
3 to a location where he could place a base of fire on
4 the enemy troops, and he pulled the platoon leader
5 to safety. He repeated his gallant actions, although
6 he was wounded by small arms fire, until all the
7 wounded personnel were removed. A sweep of the
8 area revealed eight mortally wounded insurgents,
9 seven AK-47 rifles, and three grenade launchers.

10 (9) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez attended the
11 United States Ranger School and graduated with
12 distinguished honors.

13 (10) Staff Sergeant Rodriguez led the Special
14 Forces scuba team at Ford Gulick, Canal Zone,
15 Panama, and directed several rescue missions.

16 (11) In 1981, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez earned
17 the rank of Command Sergeant Major at the United
18 States Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss,
19 Texas.

20 (12) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez was
21 nominated for the Medal of Honor in 1982.

22 (13) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez com-
23 pleted two more assignments before officially retiring
24 from the Army in 1983.

1 (14) On June 11, 2008, Command Sergeant
2 Major Rodriguez was inducted as a member of the
3 Ranger Hall of Fame.

4 (15) Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez is
5 known to be one of the most decorated combat sol-
6 diers who served in the Vietnam War.

7 (16) Rodriguez currently serves as the Chair-
8 man of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commis-
9 sion for the County of Los Angeles, California.

10 (17) Command Sergeant Rodriguez's devotion
11 to duty and personal courage are in keeping with the
12 highest traditions of the military service and reflect
13 great credit upon himself and the United States
14 Army.

15 (b) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwith-
16 standing the time limitations specified in section 7274 of
17 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation
18 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons
19 who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award
20 the Medal of Honor under section 7271 of such title to
21 Command Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez of the Army
22 for acts of valor, sacrifice, and courage at the risk of his
23 own life beyond the call of duty during the Vietnam War.

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