

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

15 JULY 2005

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to protections for the Medal of Honor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SALAZAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to protections for the Medal of Honor, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stolen Valor Act of
5 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—



1 (1) fraudulent claims surrounding receipt of the
2 Medal of Honor, the Distinguished-Service Cross,
3 the Air Force Cross, the Navy Cross, and the Purple
4 Heart damage the reputation and meaning of these
5 medals;

6 (2) Federal law enforcement officers are cur-
7 rently limited in their ability to prosecute fraudulent
8 claims of receipt of military medals; and

9 (3) changes to the current statute are necessary
10 to allow law enforcement personnel to protect the
11 reputation and meaning of these medals.

12 **SEC. 3. MILITARY MEDAL PROTECTIONS.**

13 Section 704 of title 18, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by inserting “purchases, attempts to
17 purchase, solicits for purchase, mails, ships, im-
18 ports, exports, produces blank certificates of re-
19 ceipt,” after “wears”; and

20 (B) by inserting “attempts to sell, adver-
21 tises for sale, trades, barter or exchanges for
22 anything of value” after “sells”;

23 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
24 section (c);



1 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(b) FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT RECEIPT OF MILITARY
4 MEDALS.—Whoever falsely represents himself or herself,
5 verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decora-
6 tion or medal authorized by Congress for the armed forces
7 of the United States, or any of the service medals or
8 badges awarded to the members of such forces, or the rib-
9 bon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration or
10 medal, or any colorable imitation thereof shall be fined
11 under this title or imprisoned not more than six months,
12 or both.”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) OTHER MEDALS.—If a decoration or medal in-
15 volved in an offense under subsection (a) is a Distin-
16 guished Service Cross awarded under Section 3742 of title
17 10, an Air Force Cross awarded under section 8742 of
18 section 10, a Navy cross awarded under section 6242 of
19 title 10, a silver star awarded under section 3746, 6244,
20 or 8746 of title 10, or a Purple Heart awarded under sec-
21 tion 1129 of title 10, or any replacement or duplicate
22 medal as authorized by statute, in lieu of the punishment
23 provided in that subsection, the offender shall be fined
24 under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or
25 both.”.

