

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2719

To provide for the awarding of the Purple Heart to certain veterans who experienced a traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for the awarding of the Purple Heart to certain veterans who experienced a traumatic brain injury, 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 “Staff Sergeant John
5 D. Martek Purple Heart Restoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART TO CERTAIN VET-**
2 **ERANS WHO EXPERIENCED A TRAUMATIC**
3 **BRAIN INJURY.**

4 Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amend-
5 ed by inserting after section 1129a the following new sec-
6 tion:

7 **“§ 1129b. Purple Heart: certain veterans who experi-**
8 **enced a traumatic brain injury**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the award of the
10 Purple Heart, the Secretary concerned shall treat a vet-
11 eran described in subsection (b) in the same manner as
12 a member of the Armed Forces who is killed or wounded
13 in action as the result of an act of an enemy of the United
14 States.

15 “(b) VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A veteran described in
16 this subsection is a veteran—

17 “(1) who experienced a traumatic brain injury
18 while a member of the Armed Forces that is attrib-
19 utable to an act of an enemy of the United States
20 that occurred on or after December 7, 1941; and

21 “(2)(A) who has a service-connected disability
22 attributable to such traumatic brain injury, as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; or

24 “(B) with respect to whom there is a military
25 record that demonstrates the occurrence of such
26 traumatic brain injury.

1 “(c) AWARD PROCESS.—Each Secretary concerned
2 shall—

3 “(1) establish a process for persons to submit
4 applications for the awarding of the Purple Heart
5 under this section; and

6 “(2) award the Purple Heart to each person
7 who submits an application that demonstrates the
8 person is a veteran described in subsection (b), with-
9 out regard to the date on which the veteran experi-
10 enced the traumatic brain injury that is described in
11 the application.

12 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘serv-
13 ice-connected’ and ‘veteran’ have the meaning given the
14 terms in section 101 of title 38.”.

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