

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 342

To provide for the issuance of a “Gold Star Families Forever Stamp” to honor the sacrifices of families who have lost a loved one who was a member of the Armed Forces in combat.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 6), 2017

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a “Gold Star Families Forever Stamp” to honor the sacrifices of families who have lost a loved one who was a member of the Armed Forces in combat.

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 “Gold Star Families
5 Forever Stamp Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) Gold Star mothers and fathers and families
2 are true national heroes, who deserve our deepest
3 gratitude and respect; and

4 (2) the extraordinary contribution of Gold Star
5 mothers and fathers and families is beyond measure,
6 not merely for their loss, but the comfort they self-
7 lessly provide others and their model of service and
8 sacrifice.

9 **SEC. 3. GOLD STAR FAMILIES FOREVER STAMP.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to continue to honor the
11 sacrifices of families who have lost a loved one who was
12 a member of the Armed Forces in combat, the Postmaster
13 General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp
14 suitable for that purpose.

15 (b) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this Act, the term
16 “forever stamp” means a definitive stamp that—

17 (1) meets the postage required for first-class
18 mail up to 1 ounce in weight; and

19 (2) retains full validity for the purpose de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) even if the rate of that
21 postage is later increased.

22 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The stamp described in sub-
23 section (a) shall be issued beginning as soon as practicable

- 1 after the date of enactment of this Act and shall not there-
- 2 after be discontinued.

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