

By: Representatives Staples, Robinson (84th) To: Military Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 1515

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 33-3-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI MEDAL OF VALOR WHICH IS TO BE AWARDED
3 POSTHUMOUSLY TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD
4 WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES WHILE IN ACTIVE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES;
5 TO PROVIDE THAT THE GOVERNOR MAY AWARD THE MISSISSIPPI MEDAL OF
6 VALOR TO MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
7 UNITED STATES WHO WERE AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART OR THE MEDAL OF
8 HONOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 33-3-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 33-3-17. (1) The Governor is hereby authorized and empowered
13 to decorate members and former members of the Mississippi National
14 Guard and members and former members of the national guard of the
15 several states and members and former members of the armed forces
16 of the United States, who he may deem worthy of such decoration,
17 with such awards, medals or decorations as he may prescribe by
18 rules and regulations promulgated by him, and the Governor is
19 hereby authorized to promulgate suitable and reasonable rules and
20 regulations for such purposes.

21 (2) The Governor shall award posthumously the
22 Mississippi Medal of Valor to those members of the Mississippi
23 National Guard who gave their lives while in active service of the
24 United States as defined in Section 33-1-1(1).

25 (3) The Governor may award retroactively the
26 Mississippi Medal of Valor to a member or former member of the
27 armed forces of the United States if such member has been awarded
28 the Medal of Honor or the Purple Heart.

29 (4) The design of the Mississippi Medal of Valor is as
30 follows: A gold medal with the Great Seal of the State of

31 Mississippi superimposed on a cross combined with crossed sabers
32 with the words "MEDAL FOR VALOR" inscribed around the seal. The
33 medal is suspended from a ribbon of navy blue background, with two
34 wide, vertical white bands. The recipient's name and rank are
35 engraved in the reverse side of the medal. The ribbon carries the
36 same colors as described for the medal.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2004.