

3097

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 8, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. BALL -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the military law, in relation to providing for the "atomic veterans medal" to be granted to certain veterans exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of atomic weapons tests

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Subdivisions 1-a and 4 of section 247 of the military law,  
2     subdivision 1-a as added and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 184 of  
3     the laws of 1998, are amended and a new subdivision 1-b is added to read  
4     as follows:  
5     1-a. The governor is hereby authorized to present in the name of the  
6     legislature of the state of New York, a military decoration, to be known  
7     as the "conspicuous service star", bearing a suitable inscription,  
8     device, and ribbon, all of which shall be of suitable design, to any  
9     person (i) who is a citizen of the state of New York or (ii) who was a  
10    citizen of the state of New York while serving in the armed forces of  
11    the United States, and who, while serving in the United States Armed  
12    Forces, defined as army, air force, navy, marine corps, or coast guard,  
13    has, or shall have received a United States unit level decoration denot-  
14    ing combat participation and foreign unit awards, issued from a company,  
15    regimental, brigade, or division commander, or equivalent naval unit, or  
16    issued by the President of the United States, the Congress of the United  
17    States, the United States Defense Department or the joint chiefs of  
18    staff, such as, but not limited to, a presidential unit citation or a  
19    joint meritorious unit award. Not more than one conspicuous service star  
20    shall be issued to any one person; nor shall any citation be awarded or  
21    presented, under the provisions of this subdivision, to any person whose  
22    entire service subsequent to the time of the receipt of such star shall  
23    not have been honorable. For each succeeding star as provided herein,

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 such person shall be entitled to wear, as the [chief of staff] ADJUTANT  
2 GENERAL of the state may direct, a ribbon whose color and design shall  
3 be selected by the division of [military] MILITARY AND NAVAL affairs. In  
4 the event of the death of any person during or subsequent to the receipt  
5 of such citation the conspicuous service star shall be presented to such  
6 representative of the deceased as may be designated. The [chief of  
7 staff] ADJUTANT GENERAL shall make such rules and regulations as may be  
8 deemed necessary for the proper presentation and distribution of such  
9 decorations.

10 1-B. THE GOVERNOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT IN THE NAME OF THE  
11 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, A MILITARY DECORATION, TO BE KNOWN  
12 AS THE "ATOMIC VETERANS MEDAL", BEARING A SUITABLE INSCRIPTION, DEVICE  
13 AND RIBBON, ALL OF WHICH SHALL BE OF SUITABLE DESIGN, TO ANY PERSON (I)  
14 WHO IS A CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK OR (II) WHO WAS A CITIZEN OF  
15 THE STATE OF NEW YORK WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED  
16 STATES OR THE ORGANIZED MILITIA, AND WHO, WHILE SERVING IN THE UNITED  
17 STATES ARMED FORCES, DEFINED AS THE ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY, MARINE CORPS  
18 OR COAST GUARD, OR THE ORGANIZED MILITIA WHO WAS EXPOSED TO IONIZING  
19 RADIATION AS A RESULT OF ATOMIC WEAPONS TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED  
20 STATES BETWEEN NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE AND NINETEEN HUNDRED  
21 SIXTY-THREE. NOT MORE THAN ONE ATOMIC VETERANS MEDAL SHALL BE ISSUED TO  
22 ANY ONE PERSON; NOR SHALL ANY CITATION BE AWARDED OR PRESENTED, UNDER  
23 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION, TO ANY PERSON WHOSE ENTIRE SERVICE  
24 SUBSEQUENT TO THE TIME OF THE RECEIPT OF SUCH MEDAL SHALL NOT HAVE BEEN  
25 HONORABLE. FOR EACH SUCCEEDING MEDAL PRESENTED AS PROVIDED IN THIS  
26 SUBDIVISION, SUCH PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO WEAR, AS THE ADJUTANT  
27 GENERAL OF THE STATE MAY DIRECT, A RIBBON WHOSE COLOR AND DESIGN SHALL  
28 BE SELECTED BY THE DIVISION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS. IN THE EVENT  
29 OF THE DEATH OF ANY PERSON DURING OR SUBSEQUENT TO THE RECEIPT OF SUCH  
30 CITATION THE ATOMIC VETERANS MEDAL SHALL BE PRESENTED TO SUCH REPRESENTATIVE  
31 OF THE DECEASED AS MAY BE DESIGNATED. THE ADJUTANT GENERAL SHALL  
32 MAKE SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER  
33 PRESENTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH DECORATIONS.

34 4. This section shall not be construed to require that a recipient of  
35 the conspicuous service cross [or], the conspicuous service star OR THE  
36 ATOMIC VETERANS MEDAL has been a resident of the state of New York at  
37 the time of his or her entry into the United States army, air force,  
38 navy, marine corps, COAST GUARD or nurses corps.

39 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.