

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5451**



---

**Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres Gomez**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to honor and give due recognition to the men in uniform, both military and police personnel, who have distinguished themselves by conspicuous gallantry at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. Institutionalizing the Congressional Medal of Honor, this measure would authorize the President to bestow, in the name of Congress, this medal of distinction to our brave men and women in uniform.

At present, Filipino military and police personnel who died in the line of duty, or who have rendered distinctive acts of heroism and gallantry are awarded the *Medal of Valor* under Republic Act No. 9049 (March 22, 2001) with corresponding privileges and entitlements. The country, however, does not yet have the so-called *Congressional Medal of Honor* (CMH) as it exists in the United States.

In view, however, of the tragic Mamasapano, Maguindanao incident last January 25, 2015 wherein forty-four (44) Special Action Force (SAF) troopers of the Philippine National Police were slain while simply in the course of serving a warrant of arrest against international terrorist Marwan and Filipino bomber Basit Usman, it is deemed timely to revisit the system of awards granted to our gallant military and police personnel. It is also deemed opportune to recognize the role of Congress, as the assembly of our peoples' representatives, in the process of honoring our fallen troopers.

This bill does not amend or repeal the Medal of Valor award bestowed by the Executive Branch of our government under RA 9049. Rather, it establishes the Congressional Medal of Honor with an entirely

separate and distinct set of benefits and privileges which would be granted in addition to all other benefits provided by existing laws.

In view of all the foregoing considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**LUCY TORRES GOMEZ**  
Representative  
Fourth District of Leyte

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5451**

---

**Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres Gomez**

---

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR,**  
**AUTHORIZING HEREBY THE PRESIDENT OF THE**  
**PHILIPPINES TO BESTOW, IN THE NAME OF CONGRESS,**  
**THE MEDAL UPON MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL**  
**WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY**  
**CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AT THE RISK OF THEIR LIVES**  
**BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** The Congressional Medal of Honor is hereby established, authorizing the President of the Philippines to bestow, in the name of Congress, the medal upon military and police personnel who have distinguished themselves by conspicuous gallantry at the risk of their lives beyond the call of duty.

**SEC. 2.** The Congressional Medal of Honor may be conferred:

- (a) For action against any enemy of the Republic of the Philippines;
- (b) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force;

- (c) While serving with friendly forces (for example, United Nations' forces) in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the Philippines is not a belligerent party.

**SEC. 3.** Congress, through a concurrent resolution, shall identify the awardee and submit the same forthwith to the President for the necessary conferment.

**SEC. 4.** Each awardee or recipient shall be entitled to the following benefits:

- (a) Have his/her name entered in the Medal of Honor (MOH) Roll;
- (b) A special pension rate of P 20,000.00, in addition to all other benefits under existing laws;
- (c) Commissary and exchange privileges, including eligible dependents;
- (d) Eligibility for internment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani;
- (e) Fully qualified children of MOH recipients are eligible for admission to Philippine military/police academies without regard to nomination and quota requirements;
- (f) 10% increase in retirement pay;
- (g) To receive a MOH flag;
- (h) To wear the MOH on appropriate civilian clothing;

- (i) The use of special license plates, at no cost to the recipient; and
- (j) If the recipient is wearing the medal, members of the uniformed services are encouraged to render salutes to the recipient of the MOH, as a matter of respect and courtesy, regardless of rank and status.

In case of death of the recipient or awardee, the pecuniary benefits or entitlements herein enumerated, except those purely personal to the awardee, shall be enjoyed by his or her dependents.

**SEC. 5.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,