

Sixteenth Congress
Republic of the Philippines
Second Regular Session



Introduced by Honorable Samuel D. Pagdilao, Jr.

HOUSE BILL NO. **6069**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our police force has always been in the forefront in protecting the lives of the citizenry, maintaining peace and order, and preserving the sovereignty of our country. In doing so, they often face situations where they are called upon to choose between their own survival and fulfilling these noble duties at the expense of their own personal safety. To honor these individual acts of bravery performed in the line of duty at imminent and personal danger to life, a Congressional Medal of Honor shall be awarded for acts of gallantry and courage performed with knowledge of the risk involved, above and beyond the call of duty. True enough, this Medal of Honor will be a manifestation of our appreciation of their heroism, but it shall not stop there.

Unfortunately, our present laws do not give enough benefits and privileges to our police heroes who have made a supreme self-sacrifice in the performance of their duties. In order to grant the proper reward due them, a legislative measure shall be enacted.

This bill sought to grant adequate social services and financial rewards for every recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and their immediate family and dependents. These rewards and privileges shall be more than just a mere recognition of their unparalleled acts of bravery

and heroism but also aim to strengthen the patriotic spirit and nationalistic consciousness, as well as to uplift the morale of our police force.

Hence, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
GRANTING MONTHLY GRATUITY AND PRIVILEGES TO
AN AWARDEE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF
HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to honor its police heroes in order to strengthen the patriotic spirit and nationalist consciousness of the police by giving due recognition to an awardee of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his/her supreme self-sacrifice and conspicuous acts of gallantry above and beyond the call of duty and in total disregard of personal safety by providing them, including their dependents, with adequate social services and financial rewards.

Sec. 2. Applicability. - The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), of good standing, who are awarded with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sec. 3. Benefits and privileges -

a. A Congressional Medal of Honor awardee will henceforth be entitled to a lifetime monthly gratuity of Thirty Thousand pesos (P30,000.00) which is separate and distinct from any salary or pension which the awardee is currently receiving or will receive from

the government of the Philippines: *Provided*, That in the event of death of the awardee, the same shall accrue in equal shares and with the right of accretion to the surviving spouse until she remarries and to the children, legitimate, or adopted or illegitimate, until they reach the age of eighteen (18) or until they marry, whichever comes earlier: *Provided, further*, That such gratuity shall not be included in the computation, of gross income and shall be exempt from taxation under Title III, Chapter VI of Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as then "Tax Reform Act of 1997". *Provided, finally*, That no increase under this section shall be authorized within three (3) years following the effectivity of this Act and no oftener than once every five (5) years thereafter.

The President of the Philippines is hereby authorized, upon the joint recommendation of the Chief of the Philippine National Police, the Secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Budget and Management, to adjust at a reasonable time and rates the lifetime monthly gratuity of the awardees: *Provided*, That in computing for the rate of adjustment of the lifetime monthly gratuity, they shall take into consideration applicable economic and social factors or indicia such as the inflation rate.

b. Precedence in employment in government agencies or government-owned or controlled corporation; *Provided*, That the awardee or his/her dependent also meets the job qualifications or requirement;

c. Priority in the approval of the awardee's housing application under existing housing programs of the government;

d. Twenty (20%) percent discount from all establishments relative to transportation services, hotels and similar lodging establishment, restaurants, recreation and sport centers;

e. Twenty (20%) discount on the purchase of medicine anywhere in the country;

f. Free medical and dental services and consultation in government hospitals and clinics anywhere in the Philippines.

g. A Medal of Honor awardee's son or daughter shall be given a quota if interested to join the cadet corps of the Philippine National Police Academy and shall be exempted from taking the required entrance examination, provided he/she also meets the technical qualification required by said institution;

In case of any other public or private schools, universities, colleges and other educational institutions, said dependent shall be exempted from the payment of tuition fees.

Sec. 4. Penalties. - Any person, institution, or establishment who shall deny an awardee, his/her widow/widowers and/or dependents or beneficiaries of the privileges and benefits due him/her/them by virtue of this Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment ranging from three (3) years to six (6) years and a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

In case the offender is a public officer, both appointed and elected, at the time of the commission of the offense, he/she shall, in addition to the penalty prescribed above, likewise suffer the penalty of perpetual absolute disqualification from public office and lose all retirement or gratuity benefits under the law.

Sec. 5. Appropriation. - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. The amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Interior and Local Government for members of the PNP.

Sec 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. - Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9049 and all other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved.