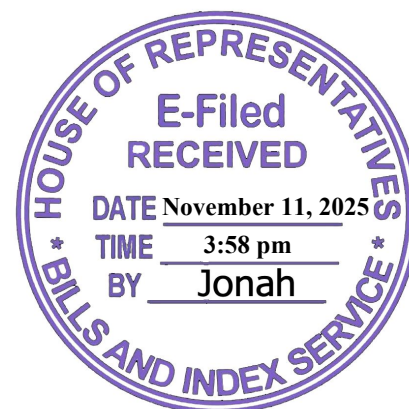


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5855



Introduced by Representative Rolando Ledesma Macasaet

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Medal of Valor is the highest military honor bestowed by the Republic of the Philippines upon its men and women in uniform who have exhibited unparalleled acts of heroism and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Awardees of this distinction have placed the safety, freedom, and sovereignty of the Filipino people above their own lives, embodying the noblest ideals of courage and patriotism.

When Republic Act No. 9049 was enacted in 2001, the grant of a Twenty Thousand Pesos (₱20,000) monthly gratuity was considered a fitting expression of the nation's gratitude. However, nearly a quarter of a century has passed, and the realities of modern-day living have changed significantly. The cost of necessities, including but not limited to healthcare, housing, education, food, and transportation, has risen exponentially. What was once a meaningful allowance can no longer sufficiently address the needs of our heroes and their dependents.

The proposed amendment to increase the gratuity to One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000) monthly is not merely a financial adjustment but a moral imperative. It ensures that the recognition accorded to Medal of Valor awardees keeps pace with the times and remains proportionate to the sacrifices they have rendered for the nation. It is an acknowledgment that their heroism is beyond measure and must be matched with tangible, substantial, and dignified support from the State.

Furthermore, the expansion of privileges and the imposition of heavier penalties for those who deny these rights reaffirm the seriousness with which the government regards its duty to honor and protect these national heroes. Increasing the penalty for violators from three (3) to six (6) years, to seven (7) to ten (10) years, underscores the principle that the betrayal of our heroes and their families is a grave offense against the Republic itself.

In enacting these amendments, the State recognizes not only the extraordinary valor of these men and women but also its responsibility to ensure that their families, whether legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted children, and all dependents are afforded the fullest benefits possible. This law seeks to secure their welfare, guarantee their dignity, and preserve their legacy.

In sum, these amendments ensure that our laws remain dynamic, responsive, and aligned with contemporary realities. They reaffirm the eternal gratitude of the Filipino people and their leaders to those who have given their lives and strength for the nation. By passing this measure, Congress ensures that the Medal of Valor truly lives up to its name, and not merely as a symbol of bravery but also as a guarantee of enduring honor and support.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROLANDO LEDESMA MACASAET
Representative, *SSS-GSIS Pensyonado Partylist*

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5855

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**AN ACT GRANTING MONTHLY GRATUITY AND PRIVILEGES
TO AN AWARDEE OF THE MEDAL OF VALOR, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to consistently honor
2 its military heroes to strengthen the patriotic spirit and nationalist consciousness
3 of the military. Towards this end, the State shall give due recognition to an
4 awardee of the Medal of Valor for his/her supreme self-sacrifice and distinctive
5 acts of heroism and gallantry by providing adequate social services and financial
6 rewards to encourage men and women to perform heroic deeds for their country.
7

8 **SEC. 2. A Medal of Valor awardee will henceforth be entitled to a lifetime**
9 **monthly gratuity of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000).** This gratuity is separate
10 and distinct from any salary or pension which the awardee is currently receiving
11 or will receive from the government of the Philippines: Provided, That in the
12 event of the death of the awardee, the same shall accrue in equal shares and with
13 the right of accretion to the surviving spouse until she remarries and to the
14 children, **whether legitimate, illegitimate, step, or adopted, and any and all**
15 **children or dependents,** Provided, further, That such gratuity shall not be
16 included in the computation of gross income and shall be exempt from taxation
17 under Title III, Chapter VI of Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as the
18 "Tax Reform Act of 1997."
19

20 The provisions of this Act shall apply to the Medal of Valor awardees under
21 Presidential Decree No. 1687 who have since been integrated to the Philippine
22 National Police (PNP): Provided, That the appropriations therefor shall come

from the Philippine National Police.

The President of the Philippines is hereby authorized, upon the joint recommendation of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Secretaries of the Department of National Defense 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: Provided, further, 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.

SEC. 3. A Medal of Valor awardee, his/her widow/widower and/or dependents as the case may be shall be entitled to the following:

- 1. Precedence and priority in appointment and employment in government agencies, instrumentalities or government-owned or -controlled corporation, regardless of plantilla limitations: Provided, That the awardee or his/her dependent also meets the job qualifications or requirements;**
- 2. Priority in the approval of the awardee's housing application under existing housing programs of the government;**
- 3. Priority in the acquisition of any and all public lands under the Public Land Act and preferential right in the lease of pasture lands and exploitation of natural resources, including but not limited to any and all categories of public lands;**
- 4. Privilege of obtaining loans in an aggregate amount not exceeding twenty million pesos (P2,000,000) from government-owned or -controlled financial institutions without having to put up any collateral or constitute any pledge or mortgage to secure the payment of the loan;**
- 5. Fifty percent (50%) discount** from all establishments relative to utilization or transportation services, hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants, recreation and sport centers and purchase of medicine anywhere in the country: Provided, That private establishments may claim the cost as tax credits;
- 6. Fifty percent (50%) discount** on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement: Provided, That aforementioned establishments may claim the cost as tax credits; and
- 7. Free medical and dental services and consultation in hospital and clinics anywhere in the country: Provided, That private hospitals and clinics may claim the cost of services as tax credit;**

65 **8. Automatic priority access to all government assistance, social services,**
66 **livelihood programs, retirement benefits, and any and all privileges or**
67 **incentives granted by law, rule, or regulation, without need of further**
68 **qualification or application, for the benefit of the awardee and his/her**
69 **dependents.**

70 **9. In the event of death, the Medal of Valor awardee shall be given a State**
71 **Funeral with full military honors, at the expense of the government, in**
72 **recognition of his/her supreme service to the nation.**
73

74 **SEC. 4.** Notwithstanding the limitation imposed by Presidential Decree No. 577
75 on the scholarship program of military personnel who died or are incapacitated
76 in line of duty, an awardee of Medal of Valor and his/her heirs/beneficiaries shall
77 be exempted from the payment of tuition and matriculation fees in public or
78 private schools, universities, colleges and other educational institutions in any
79 pre-school, baccalaureate or post-graduate courses such as or including courses
80 leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), and
81 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or allied and similar courses.
82

83 **SEC. 5.** A Medal of Valor awardee and/or a son or daughter, upon reaching the
84 age of admission as a cadet/cadette in the Philippine Military Academy, shall be
85 given a quota if interested to join the cadet corps of said military institution or
86 otherwise priority for direct commission, call to active duty (CAD) and/or
87 enlistment in regular force of the AFP, if qualified.
88

89 **SEC. 6.** Any person who shall deny an awardee, his/her widow/widower
90 and/or dependents or beneficiaries of the privileges and benefits due
91 him/her/them by virtue of this Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment
92 ranging from Seven (7) years to Ten (10) years and a fine ranging from One
93 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) to Three hundred thousand pesos
94 (P300,000) at the discretion of the court.
95

96 If the offender is a public officer at the time of the commission of the offense,
97 he/she shall, in addition to the penalty above-prescribed, likewise suffer the
98 penalty of perpetual absolute disqualification from public office and lose all
99 retirement or gratuity benefits under the law. If such public officer, who may have
100 been separated from the service and has already received such benefits, he/she
101 shall be liable to restitute the same to the government: Provided, That the
102 restitution mentioned shall include only such amounts received after the
103 commission of the offense.
104

105 For purposes of the immediately preceding paragraph, the term "public officer"
106 includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or
107 temporary, whether in the classified or unclassified or exemption service

receiving compensation even nominal, from the government.

If the offense is committed by a corporation, association, partnership or any other juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer/s or personnel responsible therefore without prejudice to the filing of civil and/or administrative action against the said corporation, association, partnership or any other juridical person.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, a person convicted under this decree shall not be entitled to the benefits of Presidential Decree No. 968, as amended, otherwise known as the Probation Law of 1976.

SEC. 7. The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current savings of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In the event that the available savings is not enough to fully implement the additional benefits, the grant of the same shall be applied uniformly to all awardees/beneficiaries. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed to fully implement the grant of additional benefits shall be included in the annual budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC. 8. The Secretary of the Department of National Defense jointly with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Health, Department of Transportation and Communications and Department of Finance and other appropriate government agencies shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this decree: Provided, That current recipients of this gratuity shall likewise be granted the additional privileges as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 9. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 10. Presidential Decree No. 1687 is hereby repealed and all other laws, rules and regulations, decrees, issuances, or any parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. 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.