



## **H.R. 1119 – Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 1119 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Susan Davis (D-CA) on February 16, 2007. The bill was sent to the House Committee on Judiciary where it was reported out by unanimous consent on August 2, 2007.

H.R. 1119 is expected to be considered on the House floor on November 6, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1119 changes the charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated by adding “spouse” and “siblings” to those that are eligible to receive associate memberships. Currently associate memberships are only allowed for the parents and lineal descendants of a person receiving the Purple Heart.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. It is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

1.5 million Purple Heart Medals have been awarded to members of the Armed Forces fighting in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other expeditionary conflicts. Of those 1.5 million, more than 500,000 are still living today.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated asked that their charter be amended so that spouses and siblings could join the organization.

### **COST**

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.