

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Burdick, Starr, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Ferrioli
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to direct Pentagon to reopen and review Leonard DeWitt's nomination for Medal of Honor for heroic actions during World War II.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Heroism of Mr. DeWitt
- Honors received by Mr. DeWitt
- Sacrifice and bravery of Mr. DeWitt and all those who have served in National Guard
- Events surrounding Mr. DeWitt's defense of ridge against attacks by Japanese soldiers
- Duties and responsibilities of reservists in service to country

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Joint Memorial 17 directs the Pentagon to reopen and review Leonard DeWitt's Medal of Honor nomination and upgrade his Distinguished Service Cross to a Medal of Honor.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. DeWitt served in the 41st Infantry "Sunset" Division of the Army National Guard. During his tour of duty he defended a ridge in New Guinea against massing Japanese soldiers, taking personal initiative and single-handedly attacking the Japanese troops before they could sweep his company off the ridge. Mr. DeWitt engaged in hand-to-hand combat to protect his fellow soldiers and maintain the American position.

Following these heroic acts, the commanding general of the Sixth Army approved Mr. DeWitt's nomination for the Medal of Honor, stating that "Sergeant DeWitt's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty are worthy of the highest recognition." However, the Medal of Honor nomination languished on the desk of General Douglas MacArthur, despite Mr. DeWitt being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the United States Army's second-highest honor.

House Joint Memorial 17 recognizes the service and heroism of Mr. Dewitt and requests that the Pentagon reopen and review his nomination for the Medal of Honor for his service during World War II.