

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9325

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to retired Colonel Philip J. Conran for acts of valor in Laos as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to retired Colonel Philip J. Conran for acts of valor in Laos as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE MEDAL OF HONOR**

4 **TO RETIRED COLONEL PHILIP J. CONRAN**

5 **FOR ACTS OF VALOR IN LAOS DURING THE**

6 **VIETNAM WAR.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) While a Major in the Air Force, Philip J.
2 Conran demonstrated extraordinary heroism in mili-
3 tary operations against an opposing armed force as
4 Aircraft Commander of a CH-3E helicopter of the
5 21st Special Operations Squadron, 56th Special Op-
6 erations Wing, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air
7 Base, Thailand, in action in Laos on October 6,
8 1969.

9 (2) The military referred to Laos as “a classi-
10 fied location in Southeast Asia” until decades after
11 the Vietnam War ended when the role of the United
12 States in Laos was declassified.

13 (3) While attempting to rescue the crew of a
14 downed helicopter, Major Conran’s aircraft was hit
15 by intense hostile ground fire, yet despite the hostile
16 ground fire, Major Conran continued the rescue op-
17 eration and landed in the vicinity of the downed
18 crewmembers.

19 (4) Once on the ground, he successfully evacu-
20 ated his aircraft and assumed a major role in de-
21 fending the crash site against an overwhelming hos-
22 tile force until rescue was possible six hours later.

23 (5) Major Conran repeatedly exposed himself to
24 heavy barrages of enemy automatic weapons fire to

1 extract essential equipment from the downed heli-
2 copters.

3 (6) In spite of receiving a severe leg wound
4 while exposed to enemy fire and trying to strengthen
5 their position, Major Conran continued to encourage
6 the others and did not mention his wound until he
7 had lost all feeling in his leg.

8 (7) Major Conran's decision to come to the aid
9 of his downed comrades, his heroic actions above
10 and beyond the call of duty while under severe hos-
11 tile fire, and his positive attitude throughout the or-
12 deal were instrumental in enabling the two heli-
13 copter crews and 44 friendly troops to withstand su-
14 perior odds until a rescue could be made.

15 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time lim-
16 itations specified in section 9274 of title 10, United States
17 Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the
18 awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the
19 Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the
20 Medal of Honor under section 9271 of such title to retired
21 Colonel Philip J. Conran for the acts of valor in Laos de-
22 scribed in subsection (a) for which he was previously
23 awarded the Air Force Cross.

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