

(S. B. 42)

**(No. 152)**

(Approved December 14, 2005)

## **AN ACT**

To establish the Eurípides Rubio Medal; determine the method for selecting the recipients and the procedure for awarding said medal; and for other purposes.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Eurípides Rubio was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1938 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Rubio who entered military service at Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico reached the rank of Captain in the Army of the United States of American, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.

On November 8, 1966, during the Viet-Nam War, in the province of Tay Ninh in the Republic of Viet-Nam, Eurípides Rubio, at the age of twenty-eight (28) was serving as Communications Official of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion when a numerically superior enemy force initiated a massive attack against the battalion.

When the intense enemy artillery fire covered the whole area while mortar discharges and hand grenades exploded within the perimeter, Captain Rubio left the relatively safe position he held to penetrate the area of blazing fire and action to distribute munitions, reestablish positions and assist the wounded. In the process Rubio was seriously wounded twice.

Without minding his painful injuries, he did not think twice before assuming command, once the commandant of an infantry company had been evacuated for medical reasons. Captain Rubio was then wounded for the

third time while exposing himself to the devastating enemy fire in his attempt to join his fellow soldiers and encourage them to keep fighting.

Three (3) times wounded, and while assisting in the evacuation of the wounded personnel, Rubio became aware that a grenade, thrown to mark the position of the Viet Cong so it could be attacked by air, had fallen near friendly lines. When Captain Rubio ran to throw the grenade away from where it had fallen he was then attacked by enemy fire. In spite of his many wounds, Rubio picked up the grenade and carried it through the deadly curtain of fire and when he reached the distance of twenty (20) meters from the enemy position he then threw the smoking grenade which fell in the midst of the enemy thus marking the location where the allied air attacks were to be concentrated before falling for the last time.

The heroic actions and extraordinary display of leadership of Captain Rubio served as a major source of inspiration for his men. His admirable valor and selfless concern for his men are consonant with the highest and most honorable traditions of the military service and are a great credit for Captain Rubio and for the Army of the United States of America. For these reasons and for his outstanding demonstration of courage and reckless heroic acts this Puerto Rican veteran, who risked his life above and beyond the call of duty, was the meritorious recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor received by Captain Rubio was created during the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln. This medal, also known as the Congressional Medal of Honor, is the highest and most prestigious military award that may possibly be bestowed upon a member of the armed forces of the United States of America in recognition of the courage displayed in battle against enemy forces. All soldiers or sailors who have conspicuously distinguished themselves for their bravery and boldness and for risking their

lives above and beyond the call of duty qualify for receiving this medal. Nearly 3,400 men and one woman have received the medal. In 2002 there were 145 recipients of the Medal of Honor still alive. Only four (4) Puerto Ricans have received the medal, to wit, Marine Luis Fernando García-Ledesma, Private First Class Carlos James Lozada, Specialist Héctor Santiago-Colón and Captain Eurípides Rubio.

The Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in its interest to decorate those Puerto Rican operating units or members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or the Puerto Rico National Guard, be they active or veterans, who as Captain Eurípides Rubio have distinguished themselves while carrying out an official mission, hereby establishes the *Eurípides Rubio Medal*, which bears the name of a man whose life, service and death are symbols of the bravery, boldness and love of a Puerto Rican for his country.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.-The Eurípides Rubio Medal is hereby created.

Section 2.-The medal, created by virtue of the present Act, is bestowed only upon members of operating units or Puerto Rican members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or the Puerto Rico National Guard, be they active or veterans who have distinguished themselves while carrying out an official mission, risking their lives beyond the call of duty and who shall be selected by the Joint Committee for Granting Medals and Awards of the Legislature.

Section 3.-The Joint Committee for Granting Medals and Awards of the Legislature shall receive nominations from the Veterans Advocate and from representatives of recognized organizations that represent active military personnel or veteran Puerto Rican members of units of the Armed

Forces of the United States of America or the Puerto Rico National Guard to be decorated with the Eurípides Rubio Medal. The nominations shall be presented to the Joint Committee for Granting Medals and Awards of the Legislature through a report listing the names of the candidates to the medal and shall contain the reasons for which they deserve said recognition. The Committee shall evaluate the report presented and select the candidate or candidates that meet the standards and conditions for granting the Eurípides Rubio Medal established by the Joint Committee for Granting Medals and Awards of the Legislature. The Committee, after evaluating the nominations presented, shall prepare a report indicating the reasons why the candidates selected merit said medal.

Said Committee shall issue the standards and conditions that the units and members to be awarded the medal must follow and meet.

Section 4.-The Eurípides Rubio Medal shall be awarded annually, provided recipients of the same exist, on Veterans Day during a ceremony organized for such a purpose by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, who shall be in charge of bestowing the award upon the members of the units and the Armed Forces or the National Guard. Both legislative bodies shall be responsible for providing the funds, the facilities and the resources needed to carry out the awards activity.

Section 5.-The funds needed to comply with the provisions of this Act shall proceed from the joint activities item of the Legislature of Puerto Rico considered in the General Budget of Expenses of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Section 6.-This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 152 (S.B. 42) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to establish the Eurípides Rubio Medal; determine the method for selecting the recipients and the procedure for awarding said medal; and for other purposes,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 2<sup>nd</sup> of February of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director