

SENATE BILL NO. 644

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, RISER, SCALISE, SHEPHERD, SMITH AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BALDONE, BARRAS, BARROW, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, CONNICK, DOERGE, DOWNS, EDWARDS, ELLINGTON, FOIL, ELBERT GUILLORY, MICKEY GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HAZEL, HENRY, HILL, HINES, HOFFMANN, HUTTER, GIROD JACKSON, JOHNSON, ROSALIND JONES, KATZ, LABRUZZO, LAFONTA, LAMBERT, LEBAS, LEGER, LIGI, LITTLE, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MARCHAND, MCVEA, MONICA, MONTOUCET, MORRELL, NORTON, NOWLIN, PEARSON, PERRY, PETERSON, PONTI, POPE, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RICHMOND, RITCHIE, SCHRODER, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, TALBOT, TRAHAN, TUCKER, WADDELL, WILLMOTT AND WOOTON

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S.36:784(A)(8), relative to veterans' affairs; to provide for a Louisiana Veterans'
3 Honor Medal Program; to provide that the secretary of veterans affairs shall manage
4 the program; to provide for an advisory committee to assist the secretary of veterans
5 affairs in operating the program; to provide for eligibility of awards; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 36:784(A)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §784. Powers and duties of the secretary

10 A. In addition to the functions, powers, and duties otherwise vested in the
11 secretary by law, he shall:

12 * * *

13 **(8)(a) Establish and manage a Veterans' Honor Medal Program in order**
14 **to recognize and honor all Louisiana veterans. The secretary shall design or**
15 **cause to be designed a medal. A gold star shall be affixed and awarded to the**
16 **next of kin of armed forces personnel killed in action. A silver star shall be**
17 **affixed and awarded to armed forces personnel wounded in action.**

1 **(b) Have the authority to form an advisory committee of interested**
 2 **persons, including, but not limited to, the governor or his designee, the speaker**
 3 **of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his designee, the president of the**
 4 **Louisiana Senate or his designee, the adjutant general or his designee, the**
 5 **Louisiana secretary of veterans affairs or his designee, and various veterans.**
 6 **This committee shall assist the secretary in the design of the medals provided**
 7 **for in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph and accompanying certificates.**

8 **(c) Determine eligibility for award of an Honor Medal provided for in**
 9 **this Section based upon military records such as DD-214 discharge paper or a**
 10 **DD-201 service record.**

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____