SB 901

THE STATE SENATE
Monday, February 23, 2004

Senate Bill No. 901

As Amended

SENATE BILL NO. 901 - By: PRUITT and GUMM of the Senate and MORGAN (Fred) of the House.

[soldiers and sailors - creating the Korean Conflict Medallion Program - effective date – emergency]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 50.24 of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the "Korean Conflict Medallion Program".

B. The Oklahoma Korean Conflict Medallion award shall consist of a medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation. A veteran shall be eligible for the award if the veteran:

1. Was a resident of Oklahoma at the time of entering the military service of the United States;

2. Served in active duty in the United States Military at any time beginning June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955; and

3. Was honorably separated or discharged from military service, still in active service in an honorable status, or was in active service at the time of his or her death.

(Bold face denotes Committee Amendments)

C. The Oklahoma Korean Conflict Medallion award shall be awarded regardless of whether or not such veteran served within the United States or in a foreign country. The award shall be awarded regardless of whether or not such veteran was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of enlistment. For purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person defined as a veteran by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency.

D. The Governor shall administer the Korean Conflict Medallion Program and set the procedures for awarding the medallion, medal and certificate.

E. In order to create statewide involvement in the design of the award in recognition of this historic endeavor, the Governor shall solicit potential designs from elementary and secondary schools, veterans' groups, and any other interested parties, provided any such design shall include the words "Oklahoma Korean Conflict Medallion". The Governor is authorized to expend from the Governor's contingency fund any monies for the cost of such medals, medallions and certificates, subject to the availability of the funds.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AFFAIRS & PUBLIC SAFETY, dated 2-9-04 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.