



SPONSOR: Sen. Lawson
Sens. Brown, Buckson, Gay, Hansen, Hocker, Hoffner,
Huxtable, Lockman, Mantzavinos, S. McBride, Paradee,
Pettyjohn, Pinkney, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,
Townsend, Walsh, Wilson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL
CITIZENS MEDAL TO JAN C. SCRUGGS.

1 WHEREAS, Jan C. Scruggs is a veteran of the Vietnam War and known as the “Founder of the Wall” for his role
2 in conceiving the idea for the Vietnam Veterans Wall and bringing the project to fruition; and

3 WHEREAS, he grew up in Bowie, Maryland and enlisted in the United States Army in 1968 upon graduating high
4 school; and

5 WHEREAS, one year later, Scruggs went to Vietnam as a rifleman with the 199th Infantry Brigade for a year-long
6 tour; and

7 WHEREAS, during this time, about half of his unit was killed or wounded, and Scruggs himself was wounded in
8 action by shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade; and

9 WHEREAS, Jan Scruggs received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and an award for gallantry; and

10 WHEREAS, following his tour of duty, Scruggs developed what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder
11 (PTSD); and

12 WHEREAS, Scruggs became an expert in PTSD, studying it at the graduate level, and advocating for his fellow
13 veterans suffering from PTSD; and

14 WHEREAS, Scruggs testified before Congress in support of the establishment of the now nationwide Vet Center
15 Program; and

16 WHEREAS, years later, Scruggs established the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to build a national memorial in
17 Washington, D.C. in honor of the more than 58,000 heroes who lost their lives in Vietnam, as well as the survivors; and

18 WHEREAS, over the course of three years, Scruggs and volunteers worked to raise more than \$8 million from
19 over 650,000 private donors across the country; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal government contributed two-acres for the site, and on Veterans Day 1982, the Vietnam
21 Veterans Memorial Wall was formally dedicated; and

22 WHEREAS, this memorial attracts approximately 5 million visitors annually, thanks to the vision and dedication
23 of American hero, Jan C. Scruggs.

24 NOW, THEREFORE:

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware that we respectfully
26 request the President of the United States of America award the Presidential Citizens Medal to Jan C. Scruggs.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Resolution respectfully requests the President of the United States award the Presidential Citizens Medal to Jan C. Scruggs.

Author: Senator Lawson