

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Sponsor Statement for House Bill 61

Creating Bronze and Silver Star License Plates and Authorizing The Creation Of Other License Plates For Awards Reflecting Meritorious Service And Bravery

Currently the Department of Motor Vehicles provides Purple Heart, Gold Star Family, POW, Pearl Harbor survivor, and unit-specific specialty license plates. It does not currently produce license plates for recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, among other meritorious military awards.

The Silver Star medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves with extraordinary heroism while engaged in combat. It is usually awarded in situations in which the recipient has repeatedly risked his or her life and emerged victorious.

The Bronze Star medal is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated bravery, performed acts of merit, or provided meritorious service while in combat. General George Marshall endorsed the creation of the Bronze Star to President Roosevelt in 1943:

The fact that the ground troops, Infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance.

With this bill we recognize Alaska's recipients of Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, and Coast Guard Cross. We also allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to produce license plates for the various other branch-specific meritorious awards, such as the Distinguished Service Cross, without the need for future legislation.