HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill proposes to designate March 25th of each year as **Medal of Honor Day**, in honor of Minnesotans who, members and former members of the United States military, have received that medal at any time in the Nation's history.

Background:

It is thought that there have been 55 Minnesota service members who have been awarded the Medal of Honor at any time, though none since the Vietnam War, with possibly only one of them still living.

The Legislature has authorized a plaque in the Veterans Court of Honor on the Capitol Mall honoring Minnesota's Medal of Honor recipients. That plaque is expected to be emplaced during spring 2009.

Previous Legislative enactments designating certain dates as special military-related observances include:

- Four Chaplains Day (involving the sinking of the USS Dorchester, 1943)
- Hire a Veteran Month
- Mighty Eighth Air Force Week (for that Wing's heroic service during WWII)
- Combat Wounded Veterans Purple Heart Day
- Vietnam Veterans Day in Minnesota