

HCR 28 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors Lieutenant Colonel Herman A. “Mac” MacDonald, Jr. (1929-2022), for his service to his state, country, and fellow veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Lieutenant Colonel Herman A. “Mac” MacDonald, Jr., was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 14, 1929, to Marion Young and Herman Albin MacDonald, Sr. He grew up in Beverly Farms and Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald’s military career began shortly after he graduated from high school in 1948, when he joined the United States Coast Guard Reserve while attending Bryant College in Smithfield, Rhode Island. Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald graduated from Bryant College with Bachelor of Science degrees in business administration and accounting and became an officer in the United States Marine Corp shortly after.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald’s military duties saw him defending America’s interests all around the globe, including in Korea, where he received his Sergeant stripes and was promoted to Second Lieutenant on the same day; in Hawaii, where he met and married his wife, Violet “Vi” Kline; on board the guided missile cruiser the USS Providence, the flagship for the United States Navy’s 7th Fleet; and in Camp Pendleton, California, where he became the commanding officer of the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company of the United States Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald served as an Inspector-Instructor in Binghamton, New York, and at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey, where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. His next duty station was at Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, and while living in Virginia he received a Master’s degree in education from Virginia Tech. After Quantico, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald was deployed to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, during which he would serve as part of the highly classified, multi-service United States Special Operations Unit.

After Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald was transferred to Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he became a military aide to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney, providing critical insight that would help guide the development of the Secretary’s policies. Following his service with Secretary Romney, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald moved to Toronto, Canada, where he became an instructor at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald returned to the United States in 1976 and retired from the military in 1978. By the time of his retirement, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald had earned numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit with Combat V, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal with 5 Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy-Marine Corps and Republic of Vietnam Parachute Insignia, Presidential Unit Citations from the United States Army and Marine Corp, and various marksmanship badges.

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Following his retirement from the military, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald and his family moved to Salem, Oregon, where he began a new career as an educator, working with troubled teenagers in the Salem School District from 1978 to 1985 and as a high school principal until his retirement in 1999.

Following his retirement from education, Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald became an advocate for veterans in Oregon, assisting with legislation that led to the development of the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon and conducting memorial services in Salem at City View Cemetery. He was the curator of the Oregon Military Educational Display, a collection of uniforms, medals and other wartime artifacts displayed each year at the Oregon State Capitol and the Oregon State Fair. Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald held positions of leadership in the military community for many years and was a proud member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Marion Post 661, Salem, the Military Order of World Wars, and the Military Officers Association of America.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald passed away on December 19, 2022, at the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, his beloved Vi, their children Kevin MacDonald and Kathy Terry and two grandchildren, Greg Publise and Jayson Terry.

House Concurrent Resolution 28 celebrates the life of Lieutenant Colonel Herman "Mac" MacDonald Jr. and recognizes and honors his dedication to serving his state, his country, and his fellow veterans.