

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW TO THE NATIONAL
SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR THE 106TH
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AWARD UPGRADE FROM THE SILVER STAR TO THE MEDAL OF HONOR
FOR COLONEL WILLIAM P. COLLIER, Jr. (Ret.)**

WHEREAS, Major Collier was awarded the Silver Star on 3 November 1972 for his heroic leadership and bravery while engaged in 54-hour combat operations in defense of his ARVN Command at Mo Duc District Headquarters, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam from 16-18 September 1972. At the time of the NVA siege, all U.S. combat forces in Vietnam had been withdrawn leaving small Advisor teams throughout South Vietnam. Major Collier was the OIC of one of the Advisor teams; and

WHEREAS, Major Collier's small 120-man ARVN force, equivalent to the South Vietnamese National Guard, withstood repeated numerically superior NVA Regiment force attacks, estimated to be well over 2000 soldiers. Major Collier, the Senior American District Advisor, assumed command of his beleaguered Mo Duc Headquarters force at the start of the siege. The only American survivor on the ground, he proficiently demonstrated the tactical expertise and fire-support experience that allowed him to courageously lead the ferocious defense of his compound from repeated NVA ground assaults. He simultaneously coordinated all facets of air, artillery and naval gunfire support that successfully prevented the Mo Duc defenders from annihilation. This imposed, upon the vastly numerically superior enemy, a reverberating and crushing defeat; and

WHEREAS, until the afternoon of the first day, Major Collier withstood three limited enemy assaults and continual mortar, rocket and machinegun-fire without any direct or indirect outside fire support until an ARVN battery came in range in late afternoon, and Cove111 and Covey 100 flew overhead in their OV-10 to provide close-air-support after 2200 hours on the evening of 16 September. After the last major assault and the OV-10 was shot down on the 17th, Major Collier still was engaged with the enemy until the 18th and convoyed during the night. At this point, they were ambushed on the 19th prior to reaching safety at another ARVN camp in an adjacent district; and

WHEREAS, as the sole American survivor, sustaining 99 casualties out of his 120 ARVN Mo Duc District Headquarters force, 256 NVA bodies were counted directly after the last major attack. The total number of NVA estimated killed throughout the District of Mo Duc was estimated at approximately 800 to 1100 soldiers and the total estimated NVA killed during the 54-hour Mo Duc battle estimated as 400 to 500. Countless wounded were dragged of by the NVA; and

WHEREAS, Captain Poling and Captain Personett heard Major Collier call air and artillery call air and artillery ordnance on his own position and coordinated other air, naval and artillery attacks on numerous other targets. Major Collier

continually rallied his men from certain defeat in a ferocious life-or-death struggle where no quarter was given by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Major Collier was awarded the Silver Star on 3 November 1972 for his heroic actions at the Mo Duc battle, but there was not available at that time, eyewitness accounts of the battle; and

WHEREAS, through de-classified additional documentation of eyewitness accounts and personal signed affidavit to the Mo Duc District Battle, not available at the time of Major Collier receiving the "Silver Star," eyewitnesses', Captain Poling and Captain Personett, who are "Air Force Cross" recipients, the nation's second-highest award, for their heroic actions while providing air support to Major Collier and his Mo Duc District Headquarters ARVN/Regional Force for eight of the 54-hour battle, recommend Major Collier receive the **MEDAL OF HONOR;**" both describe Major Collier's defense as the "**ALAMO.**"

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we fully support all Congressional action to grant award of the Medal of Honor to recognize Major Collier's extraordinary courage at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

Submitted by Department of South Carolina

To the Committee on NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The intent of this resolution is to:

To strongly urge the Congress to now authorize the Medal of Honor to Colonel William P. Collier, Jr. (Ret).