

I voted Yes for H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act of 2012.

This legislation would preserve the spirit of heroism that is inherent in military service awards by clarifying current law relating to fraudulent claims about military service. Specifically, this bill would establish penalties against those who knowingly misrepresent themselves as recipients of a military decoration or medal with the intent to obtain money, property or anything of value. By only targeting those who commit such fraud with the intention of obtaining material gain, this bill would provide protections for our servicemen and women who have rightfully been decorated for their service and deserve such recognition while simultaneously upholding the personal liberties established under the First Amendment. The heroes of Central New York and the Southern Tier and their families deserve to know that the honor of their service will not be tarnished by those who would wish to pursue personal gain at their expense.

The bill was approved by a vote of 410 – 3.