

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118-36**  
**OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_. PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DURING**  
2 **WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES MER-**  
3 **CHANT MARINE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION FUND.—

5 Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code,  
6 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 533. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund**

8 “(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—(1) There is in the gen-  
9 eral fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Mer-  
10 chant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund’ (in this sec-  
11 tion referred to as the ‘compensation fund’).

12 “(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations pro-  
13 vided in advance in an appropriations Act specifically for  
14 the purpose of carrying out this section, and no other  
15 funding source, amounts in the compensation fund shall  
16 be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation  
17 to make payments to eligible individuals in accordance  
18 with this section.

1           “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—(1) An eligible indi-  
2     vidual is an individual who—

3           “(A) during the one-year period beginning on  
4     the date of the enactment of this section, submits to  
5     the Secretary an application containing such infor-  
6     mation and assurances as the Secretary may require;

7           “(B) has not received benefits under the Serv-  
8     icemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law  
9     78–346); and

10          “(C) has engaged in qualified service.

11          “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has en-  
12     gaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941,  
13     and December 31, 1946, the person—

14          “(A) was a member of the United States mer-  
15     chant marine (including the Army Transport Service  
16     and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crew-  
17     member of a vessel that was—

18                  “(i) operated by the War Shipping Admin-  
19     istration or the Office of Defense Transpor-  
20     tation (or an agent of the Administration or Of-  
21     fice);

22                  “(ii) operated in waters other than inland  
23     waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays,  
24     and harbors of the United States;

1                   “(iii) under contract or charter to, or prop-  
2                   erty of, the Government of the United States;  
3                   and

4                   “(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

5                   “(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise  
6                   documented for service as a crewmember of such a  
7                   vessel by an officer or employee of the United States  
8                   authorized to license or document the person for  
9                   such service.

10                  “(3) In determining the information and assurances  
11                  required in the application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A),  
12                  the Secretary shall accept a DD-214 form as proof of  
13                  qualified service.

14                  “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall  
15                  make one payment out of the compensation fund in the  
16                  amount of \$25,000 to an eligible individual. The Secretary  
17                  shall make such a payment to eligible individuals in the  
18                  order in which the Secretary receives the applications of  
19                  the eligible individuals. Payments may only be made sub-  
20                  ject to the availability of funds provided in advance in an  
21                  appropriations Act for this purpose

22                  “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
23                  is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025  
24                  \$125,000,000 for the compensation fund. Such amount  
25                  shall remain available until expended.

1           “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in docu-  
2 ments submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support  
3 of the President’s budget for each fiscal year, detailed in-  
4 formation on the operation of the compensation fund, in-  
5 cluding the number of applicants, the number of eligible  
6 individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the  
7 compensation fund, the administration of the compensa-  
8 tion fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to  
9 fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and  
10 each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

11           “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
12 regulations to carry out this section.”.

13           (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
15 prescribe the regulations required under section 532(f) of  
16 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

17           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
19 after the item related to section 532 the following new  
20 item:

“533. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.”.

