

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

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

1 **SEC. 5 ____ . CREDIT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
2 **FORCES WHO SERVED IN FEMALE CULTURAL**
3 **SUPPORT TEAMS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) In 2010, the Commander of United States
6 Special Operations Command established the Cul-
7 tural Support Team Program to overcome signifi-
8 cant intelligence gaps during the Global War on Ter-
9 ror.

10 (2) From 2010 through 2021, approximately
11 310 female members, from every Armed Force,
12 passed and were selected as members of female cul-
13 tural support teams, and deployed with special oper-
14 ations forces.

15 (3) Members of female cultural support teams
16 served honorably, demonstrated commendable cour-
17 age, overcame such intelligence gaps, engaged in di-
18 rect action, and suffered casualties during the Glob-
19 al War on Terror.

1 (4) The Federal Government has a duty to rec-
2 ognize members and veterans of female cultural sup-
3 port teams who volunteered join the Armed Forces,
4 to undergo arduous training for covered service, and
5 to execute dangerous and classified missions in the
6 course of such covered service.

7 (5) Members who performed covered service
8 have sought treatment from the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs for traumatic brain injuries, post-trau-
10 matic stress, and disabling physical trauma incurred
11 in the course of such covered service, but have been
12 denied such care.

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Con-
14 gress that individuals who performed covered service per-
15 formed exceptional service to the United States.

16 (c) MILITARY SERVICE: RECORDS; CALCULATION OF
17 RETIRED PAY.—Not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
19 ensure that the performance of covered service is included
20 in—

21 (1) the military service record of each individual
22 who performed covered service; and

23 (2) the computation of retired pay for each in-
24 dividual who performed covered service.

1 (d) CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ARISING
2 FROM COVERED SERVICE.—

3 (1) DETERMINATION OF SERVICE CONNEC-
4 TION.—Upon the filing of a claim by an individual
5 described in paragraph (3)(C) for service-connected
6 disability or death incurred or aggravated in the
7 course of covered service, the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall determine whether such disability or
9 death was service-connected.

10 (2) TREATMENT OF COVERED SERVICE.—In the
11 consideration of a claim under this subsection, the
12 Secretary shall treat covered service as engagement
13 in combat with the enemy in the course of active
14 military, naval, air, or space service.

15 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
17 subparagraph (B), the effective date of an
18 award under this subsection shall be determined
19 in accordance with section 5110 of title 38,
20 United States Code.

21 (B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-
22 section (g) of such section, the Secretary shall
23 determine the effective date of an award based
24 on a claim under this subsection for an indi-
25 vidual described in subparagraph (C) by treat-

1 ing the date on which the individual filed the
2 initial claim specified in clause (i) of such sub-
3 paragraph as the date on which the individual
4 filed the claim so awarded under this section.

5 (C) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An indi-
6 vidual described in this subparagraph is an in-
7 dividual who performed covered service, or a
8 survivor of such an individual—

9 (i) who, before the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, submitted a claim for
11 service-connected disability or death of
12 such individual;

13 (ii) whose such claim was denied by
14 reason of the claim not establishing that
15 the disability or death was service-con-
16 nected;

17 (iii) who submits a claim during the
18 period of three years beginning on the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, for the same
20 condition covered by the prior claim under
21 clause; and

22 (iv) whose such claim is approved pur-
23 suant to this subsection.

24 (4) PROCESSING OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary

1 of Defense, shall improve training and guidance for
2 employees who may process a claim under this sub-
3 section.

4 (5) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct
5 outreach to inform individuals who performed cov-
6 ered service (and survivors of such individuals) that
7 they may submit supplemental claims for service-
8 connected disability or death incurred or aggravated
9 in the course of covered service. Such outreach shall
10 include the following:

11 (A) The Secretary shall publish on the
12 internet website of the Department a notice
13 that such individuals may elect to file a supple-
14 mental claim.

15 (B) The Secretary shall notify, in writing
16 or by electronic means, veterans service organi-
17 zations of the ability of such individuals to file
18 a supplemental claim.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “covered service” means service—

21 (A) as a member of the Armed Forces;

22 (B) in a female cultural support team;

23 (C) with the personnel development skill
24 identifier of R2J or 5DK; and

1 (D) during the period beginning on Janu-
2 ary 1, 2010, and ending on August 31, 2021.

3 (2) The terms “active military, naval, air, or
4 space service” and “service-connected” have the
5 meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38,
6 United States Code.

7 (3) The term “Secretary concerned” has the
8 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10,
9 United States Code.

