

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4366, AS REPORTED**  
**OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

1       SEC. 419. (a) CREDIT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF  
2 THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN CULTURAL SUP-  
3 PORT TEAMS.—Not later than one year after the date of  
4 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall  
5 ensure that the performance of covered service is included  
6 in—

7           (1) the military service record of each individual  
8 who performed covered service; and

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

11       (b) CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ARISING  
12 FROM COVERED SERVICE.—

13           (1) DETERMINATION OF SERVICE CONNEC-  
14 TION.—Upon the filing of a claim by an individual  
15 described in paragraph (3)(C) for service-connected  
16 disability or death incurred or aggravated in the  
17 course of covered service, the Secretary of Veterans  
18 Affairs shall determine whether such disability or  
19 death was service-connected.

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

6           (3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—

7           (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by  
8           subparagraph (B), the effective date of an  
9           award under this subsection shall be determined  
10          in accordance with section 5110 of title 38,  
11          United States Code.

12          (B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-  
13          section (g) of such section, the Secretary shall  
14          determine the effective date of an award based  
15          on a claim under this subsection for an indi-  
16          vidual described in subparagraph (C) by treat-  
17          ing the date on which the individual filed the  
18          initial claim specified in clause (i) of such sub-  
19          paragraph as the date on which the individual  
20          filed the claim so awarded under this section.

21          (C) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An indi-  
22          vidual described in this subparagraph is an in-  
23          dividual who performed covered service, or a  
24          survivor of such an individual—

1 (i) who, before the date of the enact-  
2 ment of this Act, submitted a claim for  
3 service-connected disability or death of  
4 such individual;

5 (ii) whose such claim was denied by  
6 reason of the claim not establishing that  
7 the disability or death was service-con-  
8 nected;

9 (iii) who submits a claim during the  
10 period of three years beginning on the date  
11 of the enactment of this Act, for the same  
12 condition covered by the prior claim; and

13 (iv) whose such claim is approved pur-  
14 suant to this subsection.

15 (4) PROCESSING OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary of  
16 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary  
17 of Defense, shall improve training and guidance for  
18 employees who may process a claim under this sub-  
19 section.

20 (5) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct  
21 outreach to inform individuals who performed cov-  
22 ered service (and survivors of such individuals) that  
23 they may submit supplemental claims for service-  
24 connected disability or death incurred or aggravated

1 in the course of covered service. Such outreach shall  
2 include the following:

3 (A) The Secretary shall publish on the  
4 internet website of the Department a notice  
5 that such individuals may elect to file a supple-  
6 mental claim.

7 (B) The Secretary shall notify, in writing  
8 or by electronic means, veterans service organi-  
9 zations of the ability of such individuals to file  
10 a supplemental claim.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

14 (B) in a cultural support team;

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

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

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

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

