AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620
OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 54, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. 11. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO SURVIVING SPOUSES BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “of $1,154” and inserting “equal to 55 percent of the rate of monthly compensation in effect under section 1114(j) of this title”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) In the case of an individual who is eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation under this section who is also eligible for benefits under another provision of law by reason of such individual’s status as the surviving spouse of a veteran, then, notwithstanding any other provision of law (other than section 5304(b)(3) of...
this title), neither a reduction nor an offset in benefits
under such provision shall be made by reason of such indi-
vidual’s eligibility for benefits under this section.”.

(b) Effective Date.—

(1) In general.—Except as provided by para-
graph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a)
shall apply with respect to compensation paid under
chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, for
months beginning after the date that is six months
after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Special rule for certain individ-
uals.—

(A) For months beginning after the date
that is six months after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
fairs shall pay to an individual described in sub-
paragraph (B) dependency and indemnity com-
pensation under section 1311 of title 38, United
States Code, in the monthly amount that is the
greater of the following:

(i) The amount determined under sub-
section (a)(3) of such section 1311, as in
effect on the day before the date of the en-
actment of this Act.
(ii) The amount determined under subsection (a)(1) of such section 1311, as amended by subsection (a).

(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is an individual eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation under section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, that is predicated on the death of a veteran before January 1, 1993.