

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-

70

OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 201, after line 11, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 626. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN MORALE, WELFARE, AND**
2 **RECREATION PRIVILEGES TO CERTAIN VET-**
3 **ERANS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act
6 of 2018”.

7 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 2017, the Secretary of Defense deter-
9 mined that the addition of new patron categories to
10 the commissary and exchange systems would support
11 the growth of a robust customer base and help en-
12 sure the ability of both systems to provide benefits
13 to members of the Armed Forces and their families.

14 (2) The Secretary previously opposed extending
15 commissary and exchange privileges to large patron
16 groups such as disabled veterans.

1 (3) In January 2017, the Secretary of Defense
2 approved limited online exchange shopping privileges
3 for all veterans, effective November 11, 2017.

4 (4) The Secretary determined that current pa-
5 trons of exchanges did not perceive the extension of
6 such privileges as diluting the benefit for members
7 of the Armed Forces.

8 (5) The Purple Heart is the oldest military
9 decoration, awarded to members of the Armed
10 Forces who have been wounded or died in combat,
11 fighting for the United States. Since the modern in-
12 carnation of the award was established in 1932, ap-
13 proximately 1,800,000 members of the Armed
14 Forces have been awarded the Purple Heart.

15 (c) COMMISSARY STORES AND MWR FACILITIES
16 PRIVILEGES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND VETERAN
17 CAREGIVERS.—

18 (1) EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGES.—Chapter 54
19 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following new section:

21 “§ 1065. Use of commissary stores and MWR facilities:
22 **certain veterans and caregivers for vet-**
23 **erans**

24 “(a) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS AWARDED THE
25 PURPLE HEART.—A veteran who was awarded the Purple

1 Heart shall be permitted to use commissary stores and
2 MWR facilities on the same basis as a member of the
3 armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

4 “(b) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WHO ARE MEDAL
5 OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.—A veteran who is a Medal of
6 Honor recipient shall be permitted to use commissary
7 stores and MWR facilities on the same basis as a member
8 of the armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

9 “(c) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WHO ARE FORMER
10 PRISONERS OF WAR.—A veteran who is a former prisoner
11 of war shall be permitted to use commissary stores and
12 MWR facilities on the same basis as a member of the
13 armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

14 “(d) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WITH SERVICE-
15 CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—A veteran with a service-
16 connected disability shall be permitted to use commissary
17 stores and MWR facilities on the same basis as a member
18 of the armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

19 “(e) ELIGIBILITY OF CAREGIVERS FOR VETERANS.—
20 A caregiver or family caregiver shall be permitted to use
21 commissary stores and MWR facilities on the same basis
22 as a member of the armed forces entitled to retired or
23 retainer pay.

24 “(f) USER FEE AUTHORITY.—(1) The Secretary of
25 Defense shall prescribe regulations that impose a user fee

1 on individuals who are eligible solely under this section
2 to purchase merchandise at a commissary store or MWR
3 retail facility.

4 “(2) The Secretary shall set the user fee under this
5 subsection at a rate that the Secretary determines will off-
6 set any increase in expenses arising from this section
7 borne by the Department of the Treasury on behalf of
8 commissary stores associated with the use of credit or
9 debit cards for customer purchases, including expenses re-
10 lated to card network use and related transaction proc-
11 essing fees.

12 “(3) The Secretary shall deposit funds collected pur-
13 suant to a user fee under this subsection in the General
14 Fund of the Treasury.

15 “(4) Any fee under this subsection is in addition to
16 the uniform surcharge under section 2484(d) of this title.

17 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘MWR facilities’ includes—

19 “(A) MWR retail facilities, as that term is
20 defined in section 1063(e) of this title; and

21 “(B) military lodging operated by the De-
22 partment of Defense for the morale, welfare,
23 and recreation of members of the armed forces.

1 “(2) The term ‘Medal of Honor recipient’ has
2 the meaning given that term in section 1074h(e) of
3 this title.

4 “(3) The terms ‘veteran’, ‘former prisoner of
5 war’, and ‘service-connected’ have the meanings
6 given those terms in section 101 of title 38.

7 “(4) The terms ‘caregiver’ and ‘family care-
8 giver’ have the meanings given those terms in sec-
9 tion in section 1720G(d) of title 38.”.

10 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
11 tions at the beginning of chapter 54 of title 10,
12 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
13 end the following new item:

“1065. Use of commissary stores and MWR facilities: certain veterans and care-
givers for veterans.”.

14 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 1065 of title
15 10, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1),
16 shall take effect at the end of the 90-day period be-
17 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR UP-
19 DATING EPACS FOR MILITARY COMMISSARIES.—There is
20 hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds
21 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$500,000 to
22 the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of updating the
23 electronic physical access control system used by military

1 commissaries and exchanges so that the system may rec-
2 ognize and accept veteran health identification cards.

3 (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS
4 AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, should maintain a list
7 of all individuals awarded the Purple Heart.

