

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118-36

OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

At the end of subtitle I of title 5, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5___.** **AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF**
2 **HONOR TO JOSEPH M. PEREZ FOR ACTS OF**
3 **VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY DURING**
4 **THE VIETNAM WAR.**

5 (a) **RECOGNITION OF ACTS OF VALOR.**—Congress
6 recognizes the following acts of valor by Joseph M. Perez:

7 (1) Joseph M. Perez distinguished himself by
8 valorous actions against overwhelming odds while
9 serving as a Sergeant in the Army, with Company
10 C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry
11 Division, in South Vietnam.

12 (2) On May 26, 1967, during the Vietnam War,
13 Sergeant Perez acted as the fire team leader with
14 the Commanding Officer of Company C and led an
15 infantry unit conducting a search and destroy task
16 near the Cambodian border. When the unit reached
17 the top of a hill, they were suddenly under attack
18 from a concealed sniper.

1 (3) During the initial phase of battle, Sergeant
2 Perez and the unit took cover to assess and decide
3 the strength of the enemy and determine the direc-
4 tion of where the attack was coming from. When the
5 enemy launched a hand-grenade, the fire team re-
6 turned fire. Without hesitation or concern for his
7 personal safety, Sergeant Perez absorbed the full le-
8 thal explosion of the grenade and shielded his fellow
9 soldiers from the blast. The explosion caused Ser-
10 geant Perez to lose his right eye and severed his
11 right hand.

12 (4) The fire team moved to relocate to a safer
13 area, leaving Sergeant Perez alone. Once Sergeant
14 Perez regained consciousness, he crawled twenty me-
15 ters to safe ground to be treated by medics.

16 (5) Sergeant Perez's personal leadership in in-
17 tense close combat resulted in a major win for his
18 battalion against overwhelming odds, though he lost
19 his eye and hand and nearly lost his life, he saved
20 the lives of three of his fire team members from
21 death and serious injuries from the explosion.

22 (6) Sergeant Perez's selfless devotion to duty,
23 his extraordinary heroism, conspicuous gallantry and
24 intrepidity, and numerous risks of his life above and
25 beyond the call of duty are all in keeping with the

1 highest traditions of the Army, and reflect great
2 credit on himself, the Armed Forces, and the United
3 States.

4 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) When awarding him the distinguished-serv-
7 ice cross, Sergeant Perez’s chain of command was
8 unaware of the full extent of his valorous actions
9 and the numerous risks he took for his soldiers, all
10 above and beyond the call of duty.

11 (2) Although Sergeant Perez absorbed the le-
12 thal explosion of a hand grenade, once he regained
13 consciousness, he continued to move with his bat-
14 talion against devastating and overwhelming enemy
15 fire.

16 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time lim-
17 itations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States
18 Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the
19 awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the
20 Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the
21 Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Jo-
22 seph M. Perez for the acts of valor described in subsection
23 (d).

24 (d) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor
25 described in this subsection are the actions of Joseph M.

1 Perez on May 26, 1967, while serving as a member of
2 the Army during the Vietnam War, for which he was pre-
3 viously awarded the distinguished-service cross.

