AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MR. PAPPAS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the end of title LI, insert the following:

SEC. 51. SECURING THE RIGHTS OUR VETERANS EARNED.

(a) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN BARS TO BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) VETERAN DEFINED.—Paragraph (2) of section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable” and inserting “whose discharge or release therefrom was not dishonorable”.

(B) BARS TO BENEFITS.—Section 5303 of such title is amended—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “if such person was discharged under conditions other than honorable”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (e).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
(A) **HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESS**

Section 3702(c) of such title is amended, in the first sentence, by striking "`, or who received a discharge other than honorable',".

(B) **EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES**.—Section 4304 of such title is amended—

   (i) by striking paragraph (2); and

   (ii) redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) **TRAINING**.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require all employees of the Department whom the Secretary determines to be front-line staff (including such employees whom the Secretary considers departmental facility enrollment and eligibility staff, and staff who develop policies and procedures of the Department), to participate, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, in training regarding eligibility standards, based on character of discharge, for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(e) **REVIEWS: CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE; IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT**.—
(1) **SECRETARY.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement a plan to conduct an additional character of discharge review for each individual who was previously denied a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary because the individual was discharged or released from active military, naval, air, or space service under a condition—

(A) other than honorable; and

(B) other than dishonorable.

(2) **INSPECTOR GENERAL.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) conduct a review of implementation of the amendments made by this Act; and

(B) submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing—

(i) the results of such review; and

(ii) recommendations of the Inspector General regarding how the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs may improve such implementation.