AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19

OFFERED BY MR. TURNER OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM BY WHICH THE COMMISSION WOULD ACQUIRE, RESTORE, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN THE MARDASSON MEMORIAL IN BASTOGNE, BELGIUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress make the following findings:

(1) The Battle of the Bulge was the largest land battle of World War II in which the United States fought, yielded more than 75,000 American casualties over the winter of 1944–1945, and stopped the final German offensive on the Western Front.

(2) The Battle of the Bulge is the second largest battle fought in the history of the United States Army.
(3) Following the war, Belgian groups raised funds to construct the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium, to honor Americans killed, wounded, and missing in action during the Battle of the Bulge.

(4) The Mardasson Memorial, inaugurated in 1950, is a five-pointed American star with the history of the battle, the names of the units that fought, and the names of the States engraved in gold letters throughout.

(5) The Mardasson Memorial, owned and maintained by the Government of Belgium, and the only memorial to the United States effort during the Battle of the Bulge, is in need of extensive repair to restore it to a condition commensurate to the service and sacrifice it honors.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress to support an agreement between the American Battle Monument Commission (hereinafter referred to as “ABMC”) and the Government of Belgium—

(1) under the monument maintenance program of the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of such program, by which the ABMC would use its expertise and presence in Europe to oversee restora-
tion of the Mardasson Memorial in preparation for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge; and

(2) under the monument trust fund program of the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of such program, by which the ABMC assumes ownership and responsibility for the Mardasson Memorial, ensuring that the Memorial stands for decades to come, honoring American service and sacrifice, and inspiring future generations.