

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
117-13
OFFERED BY MR. VAN DREW OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title LX, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 6013. GREEN STAR FLAG FOR NEXT OF KIN OF VET-**
2 **ERANS DECEASED AS RESULT OF SUICIDE.**

3 (a) GREEN STAR FLAG.—Chapter 9 of title 36,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new section:

6 **“§ 904. Green Star Flag**

7 “(a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
8 fairs shall design and designate a flag as the Green Star
9 Flag to identify next of kin of covered veterans.

10 “(b) INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO DISPLAY GREEN
11 STAR FLAG.—An individual who is next of kin of a cov-
12 ered veteran may display the Green Star Flag.

13 “(c) LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE AND SELL.—Any
14 person may apply to the Secretary for a license to manu-
15 facture and sell the designated Green Star Flag. A person
16 that manufactures a Green Star Flag without having first
17 obtained a license or otherwise violates this section is lia-
18 ble to the United States for a civil penalty of not more
19 than \$1,000.

1 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-
3 eran who died—

4 “(A) on or after September 11, 2001; and

5 “(B) as the result of suicide.

6 “(2) The term ‘next of kin’ includes—

7 “(A) a family member, as that term is de-
8 fined in section 1720K of title 38; and

9 “(B) any individual specified by the Sec-
10 retary in regulations prescribed pursuant to this
11 section.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
14 at the end the following new item:

“904. Green Star Flag.”.

15 **SEC. 6014. COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN FAMILY**
16 **MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS**
17 **DECEASED AS A RESULT OF SUICIDE.**

18 (a) COUNSELING PROGRAM.—Subchapter II of chap-
19 ter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 1720K. Counseling program for certain family**
2 **members and caregivers of veterans de-**
3 **ceased as a result of suicide**

4 “(a) COUNSELING PROGRAM.—(1) Subject to para-
5 graph (2), the Secretary shall furnish, at no cost to the
6 recipient, counseling services to—

7 “(A) the next of kin of covered veterans; and

8 “(B) former volunteer caregivers of covered vet-
9 erans.

10 “(2) The Secretary may provide counseling services
11 under this section only if the Secretary determines such
12 counseling services are—

13 “(A) reasonably accessible to the an individual
14 described in paragraph (1) ; and

15 “(B) substantially equivalent or superior to
16 similar services furnished by the Secretary to an in-
17 dividual described in paragraph (1).

18 “(3) To carry out subsection (a), the Secretary may
19 enter into an agreement with a Federal, State, or private
20 entity. The Secretary may provide fair compensation to
21 such entity pursuant to such agreement.

22 “(b) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—In carrying out the pro-
23 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

24 “(1) publish information relating to the pro-
25 gram on an Internet website of the Department; and

1 “(2) provide information relating to the pro-
2 gram to any individual described in paragraph (1).

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The terms ‘covered veteran’ and ‘next of
5 kin’ has the meaning given that term in section 904
6 of title 36.

7 “(2) The term ‘covered veterans service organi-
8 zation’ includes—

9 “(A) an organization recognized by the
10 Secretary for the representation of veterans
11 under section 5902 of this title; and

12 “(B) an organization—

13 “(i) that is described in section
14 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal
15 Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from
16 taxation under section 501(a) of such
17 Code; and

18 “(ii) that carries out activities relating
19 to veterans and their assistance.

20 “(3) The term ‘family member’ means, with re-
21 spect to a covered veteran, an individual—

22 “(A) who is a member of the family of the
23 veteran, including—

24 “(i) a parent or legal guardian;

25 “(ii) a spouse;

1 “(iii) a child;

2 “(iv) a step-family member; and

3 “(v) an extended family member; or

4 “(B) who, prior to the death of the covered
5 veteran, lived with the covered veteran.

6 “(4) The term ‘former volunteer caregiver’
7 means, with respect to a covered veteran, an indi-
8 vidual—

9 “(A) who is at least 18 years of age; and

10 “(B) who, prior to the death of the covered
11 veteran, and in connection with a covered vet-
12 erans service organization, furnished the cov-
13 ered veteran with counseling, social work, or
14 other personal care services—

15 “(i) without compensation to such in-
16 dividual; and

17 “(ii) for a period of at least three
18 months.

19 “(5) The term ‘personal care services’ has the
20 meaning given that term in section 1720G of this
21 title.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 of such
24 title is amended by inserting, after the item relating to
25 section 1720J, the following new item:

“1720K. Counseling program for certain family members and caregivers of veterans deceased as a result of suicide.”.

1 (c) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall carry out section 1720K of such title, as
3 added by subsection (a), by not later than 90 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

