AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MR. VAN ORDEN OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY”.

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

(1) Establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems.

(2) The number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased to 377 in 2020, an increase from 348 in 2019.

(3) The suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans taking their own lives in 2019.
(4) After adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2018 was 27.5 per 100,000 individuals, higher than the rate among all United States adults, which was 18.3 per 100,000 individuals.

(5) More veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam; Whereas many of the veterans who take their own lives have had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(6) The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic can lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

(7) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that law enforcement officers and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty, and emergency medical services providers are 1.39 times more likely to die by suicide than members of the general public.

(8) Invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment.
(9) Additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(10) November 12, 2023, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress expresses support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as the “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting our warriors to support structures necessary to transitioning from the battlefield.