

**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:

1 **SEC. 10\_\_\_. EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION**  
2 **OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WAR-**  
3 **RIOR CALL DAY”.**

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

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

12 (2) The number of suicides of members of the  
13 Armed Forces serving on active duty increased to  
14 377 in 2020, an increase from 348 in 2019.

15 (3) The suicide rate for veterans has steadily  
16 increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans taking  
17 their own lives in 2019.

1           (4) After adjusting for sex and age, the rate of  
2           veteran suicide in 2018 was 27.5 per 100,000 indi-  
3           viduals, higher than the rate among all United  
4           States adults, which was 18.3 per 100,000 individ-  
5           uals.

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

11          (6) The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-  
12          19) pandemic can lead to increased isolation and  
13          disconnection, further exacerbating mental and phys-  
14          ical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder  
15          and traumatic brain injury.

16          (7) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
17          vention note that law enforcement officers and fire-  
18          fighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the  
19          line of duty, and emergency medical services pro-  
20          viders are 1.39 times more likely to die by suicide  
21          than members of the general public.

22          (8) Invisible wounds linked to an underlying  
23          and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror  
24          many mental health conditions, a problem that can  
25          be addressed through appropriate medical treatment.

1           (9) Additional research is needed to highlight  
2           the connection between traumatic brain injury as a  
3           root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by mem-  
4           bers of the Armed Forces and veterans.

5           (10) November 12, 2023, would be an appro-  
6           priate day to designate as “National Warrior Call  
7           Day”.

8           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress expresses sup-  
9           port for the designation of November 12, 2023, as the  
10          “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the impor-  
11          tance of connecting our warriors to support structures  
12          necessary to transitioning from the battlefield.

