

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-**

**19**

**OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI OF INDIANA**

Page 733, after line 15, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1092. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MILITARY**  
2 **WORKING DOGS AND SOLDIER HANDLERS.**

3 (a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds  
4 that—

5 (1) the 341st Training Squadron, 37th Train-  
6 ing Wing at Lackland Air Force Base provides high-  
7 ly trained military working dogs to the Department  
8 of Defense and other government agencies;

9 (2) in 2010, the operational needs of the Army  
10 for military working dogs increased without an in-  
11 crease in resources to train a sufficient number of  
12 dogs for the detection of improvised explosive devices  
13 at the 341st Training Squadron;

14 (3) the Army initiated the tactical explosive de-  
15 tection dog program in August 2010 as a nontradi-  
16 tional military working dog program to train and  
17 field improvised explosive device detection dogs for

1 use in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring  
2 Freedom;

3 (4) the tactical explosive detection dog program  
4 was created to reduce casualties from improvised ex-  
5 plosive devices in response to an increase in the use  
6 of asymmetric weapons by the enemy;

7 (5) the tactical explosive detection dogs were a  
8 unique subset of military working dogs because the  
9 Army selected and trained soldiers from deploying  
10 units to serve as temporary handlers for only the du-  
11 ration of deployment to Operation Enduring Free-  
12 dom;

13 (6) the tactical explosive detection dogs and  
14 their soldier handlers, like other military working  
15 dog and handler teams, formed strong bonds while  
16 training for combat and performing extremely dan-  
17 gerous improvised explosive device detection missions  
18 in service to the United States;

19 (7) the tactical explosive detection dog program  
20 was a nontraditional military working dog program  
21 that terminated in February 2014;

22 (8) at the termination of the tactical explosive  
23 detection dog program in February 2014, neither  
24 United States law nor Department of Defense policy  
25 established an adoption order priority, and Depart-

1       ment of Defense policy only provided that military  
2       working dogs be adopted by former handlers, law en-  
3       forcement agencies, and other persons capable of hu-  
4       manely caring for the animals;

5           (9) an August 2016 report to Congress by the  
6       Air Force entitled “Tactical Explosive Detector Dog  
7       (TEDD) Adoption Report” concluded that the Army  
8       had a limited transition window for the disposition  
9       of tactical explosive detection dogs and the lack of  
10      a formal comprehensive plan contributed to the dis-  
11     organized disposition process for the tactical explo-  
12     sive detection dogs;

13          (10) the August 2016 report stated that, in  
14      2014, the Army disposed of 229 tactical explosive  
15      detection dogs;

16          (11) 40 tactical explosive detection dogs were  
17      adopted by handlers, 47 dogs were adopted by pri-  
18      vate individuals, 70 dogs were transferred to Army  
19      units, 17 dogs were transferred to other government  
20      agencies, 46 dogs were transferred to law enforce-  
21      ment agencies, and 9 dogs were deceased;

22          (12) the disposition of tactical explosive detec-  
23      tion dogs was poorly executed, proper procedures  
24      outlined in Department of Defense policy were ig-  
25      nored, and, as a result, the former soldier handlers

1        were not provided the opportunity to adopt their tac-  
2        tical explosive detection dogs;

3            (13) the Army should have deliberately planned  
4        for the disposition of the tactical explosive detection  
5        dogs and provided appropriate time to review and  
6        consider adoption applications to mitigate handler  
7        and civilian adoption issues;

8            (14) section 342(b) of the National Defense  
9        Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law  
10       114–92; 129 Stat. 793) amended section 2583(c) of  
11       title 10, United States Code, to modify the list of  
12       persons authorized to adopt a military animal and  
13       prioritize the list with preference, respectively, to  
14       former handlers, other persons capable of humanely  
15       caring for the animal, and law enforcement agencies;

16           (15) since 2000, Congress has passed legisla-  
17       tion that protects military working dogs, promotes  
18       their welfare, and recognizes the needs of their vet-  
19       eran handlers;

20           (16) Congress continues to provide oversight of  
21       military working dogs to prevent a reoccurrence of  
22       the disposition issues that affected tactical explosive  
23       detection dogs;

24           (17) former soldier handlers should be reunited  
25       with their tactical explosive detection dogs;

1           (18) congressional recognition of the military  
2           service of tactical explosive detection dogs and their  
3           former soldier handlers is a small measure of grati-  
4           tude this legislative body can convey;

5           (19) over 4 years have passed since the termi-  
6           nation of the tactical explosive detection dog pro-  
7           gram;

8           (20) Congressman Walter B. Jones has been a  
9           long-time advocate for military working dogs and  
10          their handlers;

11          (21) Congressman Walter B. Jones has worked  
12          to ensure that handlers are given priority when their  
13          military working dogs reach retirement;

14          (22) Congressman Walter B. Jones was a  
15          strong proponent of the Wounded Warrior Service  
16          Dog program, which is a valuable program that  
17          helps wounded members of the Armed Forces man-  
18          age and recover from post-traumatic stress;

19          (23) the advocacy of Congressman Walter B.  
20          Jones for military working dogs is well known  
21          throughout the nonprofit community that supports  
22          military working dogs;

23          (24) Congressman Walter B. Jones worked with  
24          the Department of Defense and the Senate to up-  
25          date the language in the Air Force Manual on Mili-

1 tary Working Dogs to clarify that military working  
2 dogs are not equipment and to indicates the true  
3 level of appreciation and respect the Department of  
4 Defense has for these valuable members of the mili-  
5 tary team;

6 (25) Congressman Walter B. Jones was the  
7 chief legislative sponsor of the Military Working Dog  
8 Teams Monument, which was built with no taxpayer  
9 dollars but through corporate and private donations;  
10 and

11 (26) with the support of Congressman Walter  
12 B. Jones, the National Defense Authorization Act  
13 for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181) author-  
14 ized the Burnam Foundation to design, fund, build,  
15 and maintain the Military Working Dog Teams Na-  
16 tional Monument.

17 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
18 gress to—

19 (1) recognize the efforts of Congressman Walter  
20 B. Jones to promote military working dogs as un-  
21 sung heroes on the battlefield and in helping wound-  
22 ed warriors recover from physical and mental inju-  
23 ries;

1           (2) recognize the service of military working  
2 dogs and soldier handlers from the tactical explosive  
3 detection dog program;

4           (3) acknowledge that not all tactical explosive  
5 detection dogs were adopted by their former soldier  
6 handlers;

7           (4) encourage the Army and other government  
8 agencies, including law enforcement agencies, with  
9 former tactical explosive detection dogs to prioritize  
10 adoption to former tactical explosive detection dog  
11 handlers; and

12           (5) honor the sacrifices made by tactical explo-  
13 sive detection dogs and their soldier handlers in  
14 combat.

