

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MS. WILLIAMS OF GEORGIA

Page 1348, insert after line 23 the following:

1 **SEC. 5806. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE LIFE AND**
2 **LEGACY OF SENATOR JOSEPH MAXWELL**
3 **CLELAND.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born August
6 24, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, the child of Juanita
7 Kesler Cleland and Joseph Hughie Cleland, a World
8 War II veteran, and grew up in Lithonia, Georgia.

9 (2) Joseph Maxwell Cleland graduated from
10 Stetson University in Florida in 1964, and received
11 his Master's Degree in history from Emory Univer-
12 sity in Atlanta, Georgia.

13 (3) Following his graduation from Stetson Uni-
14 versity, Joseph Maxwell Cleland received a Second
15 Lieutenant's Commission in the Army through its
16 Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

17 (4) Joseph Maxwell Cleland volunteered for
18 duty in the Vietnam War in 1967, serving with the
19 1st Cavalry Division.

1 (5) On April 8, 1968, during combat at the
2 mountain base at Khe Sanh, Joseph Maxwell
3 Cleland was gravely injured by the blast of a gre-
4 nade, eventually losing both his legs and right arm.

5 (6) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was awarded the
6 Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver
7 Star for gallantry in action.

8 (7) In 1970, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elect-
9 ed to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member
10 and the only Vietnam veteran, where he served until
11 1975.

12 (8) As a Georgia State Senator, Joseph Max-
13 well Cleland authored and advanced legislation to
14 ensure access to public facilities in Georgia for elder-
15 ly and handicapped individuals.

16 (9) In 1976, Joseph Maxwell Cleland began
17 serving as a staffer on the Committee on Veterans
18 Affairs of the Senate.

19 (10) In 1977, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was ap-
20 pointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Vet-
21 erans Administration.

22 (11) He was the youngest Administrator of the
23 Veterans Administration ever and the first Vietnam
24 veteran to head the agency.

1 (12) He served as a champion for veterans and
2 led the Veterans Administration to recognize, and
3 begin to treat, post-traumatic stress disorder in vet-
4 erans suffering the invisible wounds of war.

5 (13) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected in
6 1982 as Georgia's Secretary of State, the youngest
7 individual to hold the office, and served in that posi-
8 tion for 14 years.

9 (14) in 1996, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was
10 elected to the United States Senate representing
11 Georgia.

12 (15) As a member of the Committee on Armed
13 Services, Joseph Maxwell Cleland advocated for
14 Georgia's military bases, servicemembers, and vet-
15 erans, including by championing key personnel
16 issues, playing a critical role in the effort to allow
17 servicemembers to pass their GI Bill education bene-
18 fits to their children, and establishing a new vet-
19 erans cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

20 (16) In 2002, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was ap-
21 pointed to the 9/11 Commission.

22 (17) In 2003, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was ap-
23 pointed by President George W. Bush to the Board
24 of Directors for the Export-Import Bank of the
25 United States, where he served until 2007.

1 (18) In 2009, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was ap-
2 pointed by President Barack Obama as Secretary of
3 the American Battle Monuments Commission over-
4 seeing United States military cemeteries and monu-
5 ments overseas, where he served until 2017.

6 (19) Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored 3 books:
7 Strong at the Broken Places, Going for the Max: 12
8 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest, and Heart
9 of a Patriot.

10 (20) Joseph Maxwell Cleland received numerous
11 honors and awards over the course of his long and
12 distinguished career.

13 (21) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was a patriot, vet-
14 eran, and lifelong civil servant who proudly served
15 Georgia, the United States, and all veterans and
16 servicemembers of the United States.

17 (22) On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79,
18 Joseph Maxwell Cleland died, leaving behind a leg-
19 acy of service, sacrifice, and joy.

20 (b) DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH MAXWELL
21 CLELAND.—Congress has heard with profound sorrow of
22 the death of the Honorable Joseph Maxwell Cleland, who
23 served—

24 (1) with courage and sacrifice in combat in the
25 Vietnam War;

1 (2) with unwavering dedication to Georgia as a
2 State Senator, Secretary of State, and Senator; and
3 (3) with honorable service to the United States
4 and veterans of the United States through his life-
5 time of public service and tenure as Administrator
6 of the Veterans Administration.

