AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5. REVIEW OF WORLD WAR II VALOR MEDALS.

(a) Review Required.—Each Secretary concerned shall review the service records of World War II veterans described in subsection (b) under the jurisdiction of such Secretary in order to determine whether any such veteran should be awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during World War II.

(b) Covered World War II Veterans.—The World War II veterans whose service records may be reviewed under subsection (a) are African American veterans, Asian American veterans, Hispanic American veterans, Jewish American veterans, and Native American veterans who were recommended for a Medal of Honor for actions that occurred from December 7, 1941, through September 2, 1945, if the Department of Defense possesses or receives records relating to such recommendation.
(c) Recommendation Based on Review.—If a Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review under subsection (a), that the award of the Medal of Honor to a covered World War II veteran is warranted, such Secretary shall submit to the President a recommendation that the President award the Medal of Honor to that veteran.

(d) Authority to Award Medal of Honor.—The Medal of Honor may be awarded to a World War II veteran in accordance with a recommendation of a Secretary concerned under subsection (c).

(e) Waiver of Time Limitations.—An award of the Medal of Honor may be made under subsection (d) without regard to—

(1) section 7274 or 8298 of title 10, United States Code, as applicable; and

(2) any regulation or other administrative restriction on—

(A) the time for awarding the Medal of Honor; or

(B) the awarding of the Medal of Honor for service for which a Distinguished Service Cross or Navy Cross has been awarded.
(f) DEADLINE.—The review under subsection (a) shall terminate not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

(A) AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERAN.—The term “African American veteran” means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945, and who identified himself as of African descent on his military personnel records.

(B) ASIAN AMERICAN WAR VETERAN.—The term “Asian American veteran” means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945, and who identified himself racially, nationally, or ethnically as originating from a country in Asia on his military personnel records.

(C) HISPANIC AMERICAN WAR VETERAN.—The term “Hispanic American veteran” means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945, and who identified himself
racially, nationally, or ethnically as originating from a country where Spanish is an official language on his military personnel records.

(D) JEWISH AMERICAN WAR VETERAN.—The term “Jewish American veteran” mean any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945, and who identified himself as Jewish on his military personnel records.

(E) NATIVE AMERICAN WAR VETERAN.—The term “Native American veteran” means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945, and who identified himself as a member of a federally recognized tribe within the modern territory of the United States on his military personnel records.

(F) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(i) the Secretary of the Army, in the case of members of the Armed Forces who served in the Army between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Navy, in the case of members of the Armed Forces who
served in the Navy or the Marine Corps between December 7, 1941, and September 2, 1945.

(2) APPLICATION OF DEFINITIONS OF ORIGIN.—If the military personnel records of a person do not reflect the person’s membership in one of the groups identified in subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (1) but historical evidence exists that demonstrates the person’s Jewish faith held at the time of service, or that the person identified himself as of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent, the person may be treated as being a member of the applicable group by the Secretary concerned for purposes of this section.