

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 371

To expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. VENTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hmong Veterans’ Nat-
5 uralization Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**
2 **FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO SERVED WITH**
3 **SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS IN LAOS.**

4 The requirement of paragraph (1) of section 312(a)
5 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
6 1423(a)) shall not apply to the naturalization of any per-
7 son who—

8 (1) served with a special guerrilla unit operat-
9 ing from a base in Laos in support of the United
10 States at any time during the period beginning Feb-
11 ruary 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978, or

12 (2) is the spouse or widow of a person described
13 in paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 3. NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN A SPECIAL**
15 **GUERRILLA UNIT IN LAOS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of subsection
17 (a) and subsection (b) (other than paragraph (3)) of sec-
18 tion 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
19 1440) shall apply to an alien who served with a special
20 guerrilla unit operating from a base in Laos in support
21 of the United States at any time during the period begin-
22 ning February 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978,
23 in the same manner as they apply to an alien who has
24 served honorably in an active-duty status in the military
25 forces of the United States during the period of the Viet-
26 nam hostilities.

1 (b) PROOF.—The Immigration and Naturalization
2 Service shall verify an alien’s service with a guerrilla unit
3 described in subsection (a) through—

4 (1) review of refugee processing documentation
5 for the alien,

6 (2) the affidavit of the alien’s superior officer,

7 (3) original documents,

8 (4) two affidavits from persons who were also
9 serving with such a special guerrilla unit and who
10 personally knew of the alien’s service, or

11 (5) other appropriate proof.

12 The Service shall liberally construe the provisions of this
13 subsection to take into account the difficulties inherent in
14 proving service in such a guerrilla unit.

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