111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. R. 2553

To authorize the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in the testing of nuclear weapons or under other circumstances.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. LOEBSACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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A BILL

To authorize the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in the testing of nuclear weapons or under other circumstances.

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 "Atomic Veterans Serv-

5 ice Medal Act".

SEC. 2. ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL.

(a) SERVICE MEDAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall design and produce a military service medal, to be known as the "Atomic Veterans Service Medal", to honor retired and former members of the Armed Forces who are radiation-exposed veterans (as such term is defined in section 1112(c)(3) of title 38, United States Code).

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF MEDAL.—

(1) ISSUANCE TO RETIRED AND FORMER MEMBERS.—At the request of a radiation-exposed veteran, the Secretary of Defense shall issue the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the veteran.

(2) ISSUANCE TO NEXT-OF-KIN.—In the case of a radiation-exposed veteran who is deceased, the Secretary may provide for issuance of the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the next-of-kin of the person.

(3) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate as appropriate an application by which radiation-exposed veterans and their next-of-kin may apply to receive the Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

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