

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5233

To amend title 10, United States Code, to recognize the contributions made by the spouses of members of the Armed Forces who serve in combat through the presentation of an official lapel button, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2010

Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to recognize the contributions made by the spouses of members of the Armed Forces who serve in combat through the presentation of an official lapel button, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOGNITION OF**
2 **SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESENTATION OF LAPEL
5 BUTTONS.—Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code,
6 is amended by inserting after section 1126 the following
7 new section:

8 **“§ 1126a. Spouse of combat veteran lapel button: eli-**
9 **gibility and presentation**

10 “(a) DESIGN AND ELIGIBILITY.—A lapel button, to
11 be known as the spouse-of-a-combat-veteran lapel button,
12 shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of De-
13 fense, to identify and recognize the spouse of a member
14 of the armed forces who is serving or has served in a com-
15 bat zone for a period of more than 30 days.

16 “(b) PRESENTATION.—The Secretary concerned may
17 authorize the use of appropriated funds to procure spouse-
18 of-a-combat-veteran lapel buttons and to provide for their
19 presentation to eligible spouses of members.

20 “(c) EXCEPTION TO TIME PERIOD REQUIREMENT.—
21 The 30-day periods specified in subsections (a) and (b)
22 do not apply if the member is killed or wounded in the
23 combat zone before the expiration the period.

24 “(d) LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE AND SELL LAPEL
25 BUTTONS.—Section 901(c) of title 36 shall apply with re-

1 spect to the spouse-of-a-combat-veteran lapel button au-
2 thorized by this section.

3 “(e) COMBAT ZONE DEFINED.—In this section, the
4 term ‘combat zone’ has the meaning given that term in
5 section 112(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
7 issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out
8 this section. The Secretary shall ensure that the regula-
9 tions are uniform for each armed force to the extent prac-
10 ticable.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
13 after the item relating to section 1126 the following new
14 item:

“1126a. Spouse-of-a-combat-veteran lapel button: eligibility and presentation.”.

15 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—It is the Sense of Congress
16 that, as soon as practicable once the spouse-of-a-combat-
17 veteran lapel button become available, the Secretary of
18 Defense—

19 (1) should widely announce the availability of
20 spouse-of-a-combat-veteran lapel buttons through
21 military and public information channels; and

22 (2) should encourage commanders at all levels
23 to conduct ceremonies recognizing the support pro-
24 vided by spouses of members of the Armed Forces
25 and to use the ceremonies as an opportunity for

- 1 members to present their spouses with a spouse-of-
- 2 a-combat-veteran lapel button.

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