
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "ATOMIC VETERANS" THE VETERANS INVOLVED IN THE CLEANUP OF THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR TEST SITE ON LOJWA ISLAND FROM 1977 TO 1980 MAKING THEM ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

1 WHEREAS, from 1977 through 1980, members of the United
2 States Armed Forces participated in a radiation cleanup of the
3 United States nuclear test site in the Marshall Islands; and
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5 WHEREAS, service members involved in the Enewetak Atoll
6 Atomic Debris Cleanup moved radioactive fallout and debris from
7 the surface of the islands of Enewetak Atoll to a 370-foot
8 diameter concrete containment structure on Runit Island and also
9 created a number of artificial reefs in the lagoon; and
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11 WHEREAS, following the radiation cleanup, the Marshallese
12 inhabitants returned to their homeland and the service members
13 were presented with Humanitarian Medals by the United States
14 government in recognition of their efforts; and
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16 WHEREAS, while having served their country, these surviving
17 and decorated veterans now suffer from health problems related
18 to radiation exposure, but are not eligible for certain
19 compensation and health care benefits from the United States
20 government; and
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22 WHEREAS, Congress has not created any presumptions for
23 veterans or civilians based on residual contamination from
24 nuclear tests at Enewetak Atoll; and
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26 WHEREAS, while it is the position of the United States
27 Department of Justice that medical funds be made available to
28 those who participated in radiation-risk activities during
29 active service, Congress has not included cleanup veterans in
30 the definition of "Atomic Veteran", an omission that has denied



1 these decorated veterans from receiving certain compensation and
2 health care benefits from the federal government; and

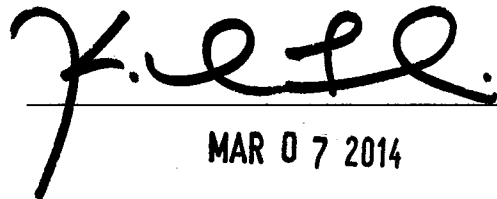
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4 WHEREAS, these cleanup veterans are not included in the
5 definition of an "Atomic Veteran", which is defined as a veteran
6 who, as part of his or her military service, participated in an
7 above-ground nuclear test from 1945-1962, or served in the
8 United States military occupation forces in or around Hiroshima
9 or Nagasaki before 1946; or was held as a prisoner of war in or
10 near Hiroshima or Nagasaki and was subjected to certain
11 conditions; and

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13 WHEREAS, these cleanup veterans, specifically those
14 veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities during
15 active service and were housed at Lojwa Island in the northern
16 half of the Enewetak Atoll, should be included in the United
17 States Department of Veterans Affairs' definition of an "Atomic
18 Veteran" making them eligible for benefits; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2014, that Congress and the United States Department
23 of Veterans Affairs are urged to include within the definition
24 of "Atomic Veteran" the veterans involved in the cleanup of the
25 United States nuclear test site on Lojwa Island from 1977 to
26 1980 making them eligible to receive compensation and health
27 care benefits from the United States government; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
31 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the
32 United States House of Representatives, Secretary of the United
33 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and Hawaii's
34 Congressional delegation.

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37 OFFERED BY:


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