

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1788

To extend the Vietnam Service Medal to veterans of the Armed Forces
who participated in the S.S. Mayaguez rescue operation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2017

Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To extend the Vietnam Service Medal to veterans of the
Armed Forces who participated in the S.S. Mayaguez
rescue operation.

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 “Recognizing Mayaguez
5 Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AWARD OF VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL TO VETERANS**
7 **WHO PARTICIPATED IN MAYAGUEZ RESCUE**
8 **OPERATION.**

9 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the
10 military department concerned shall, upon the application

1 by or on behalf of an individual who is an eligible veteran,
2 award that individual the Vietnam Service Medal, notwith-
3 standing any otherwise applicable requirements for the
4 award of that medal. Any such award shall be made in
5 lieu of any Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal awarded
6 the individual for the individual's participation in the Ma-
7 yaguez rescue operation.

8 (b) TREATMENT OF DECEASED VETERANS.—In the
9 case of a veteran who is deceased, the application de-
10 scribed in subsection (a) may be submitted by the next
11 of kin of the veteran.

12 (c) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—For purposes of this sec-
13 tion, the term “eligible veteran” means a veteran of the
14 Armed Forces—

15 (1) who was awarded the Armed Forces Expe-
16 ditionary Medal for participation in military oper-
17 ations known as the Mayaguez rescue operation of
18 May 12–15, 1975; or

19 (2) who participated in such operation.

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