

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1641

To amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2019

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. CISNEROS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Let Everyone Get In-
5 volved in Opportunities for National Service Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) Since the end of World War II, the Federal
2 Government has designated specific periods of war,
3 the dates of which are important for qualification for
4 certain benefits or membership in veterans organiza-
5 tions established by Congress.

6 (2) In between those recognized periods of war,
7 during so-called peacetime eras, the United States
8 military has been involved in not fewer than 12
9 known eras, which are unrecognized by the United
10 States Government as periods of war, resulting in
11 numerous United States personnel combat casual-
12 ties.

13 (3) Those 12 unrecognized war eras occurred at
14 the direction of the then President of the United
15 States, with full knowledge and consent of the then
16 Congress.

17 (4) The first of those 12 unrecognized war eras
18 involving active United States military personnel was
19 the Greek Civil War, fought in Greece from 1946 to
20 1949 between the army of the Government of
21 Greece, supported by active military personal of the
22 United States and the United Kingdom, and the
23 Democratic Army of Greece, the military branch of
24 the Communist Party of Greece.

1 (5) During the Greek Civil War, one member of
2 the Armed Forces of the United States sacrificed his
3 life in service to the United States, and five others
4 suffered non-combat deaths.

5 (6) The second of those unrecognized war eras
6 involving active United States military personnel was
7 the Chinese Civil War, which occurred during the
8 aftermath of World War II.

9 (7) During the Chinese Civil War, the United
10 States military equipped, trained, transported, and
11 supplied the Kuomintang-led Government of the Re-
12 public of China with approximately \$4,430,000,000
13 in its resistance to the Communist Party of China.

14 (8) During the Chinese Civil War, 14 members
15 of the Armed Forces of the United States sacrificed
16 their lives in service to the United States, 150 non-
17 combatants of the United States lost their lives in
18 the war, and 51 were wounded, resulting in 215
19 United States military casualties.

20 (9) The third unrecognized war era involving
21 active United States military personnel is known as
22 the Cold War.

23 (10) The Cold War was a period spanning from
24 approximately 1947 until 1991 when the Soviet
25 Union collapsed.

1 (11) Although no direct large-scale military
2 fighting occurred between the militaries of the
3 United States and the Soviet Union, active United
4 States military personnel served in multiple regional
5 conflicts during the Cold War, resulting in the
6 deaths of not fewer than 32 members of the Armed
7 Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the
8 United States and not fewer than 12 additional cas-
9 ualties.

10 (12) The fourth unrecognized war era involving
11 active United States military personnel is known as
12 the China Cold War.

13 (13) The China Cold War started when the
14 Kuomintang-led Government of the Republic of
15 China retreated to the island of Taiwan and lasted
16 until 1972, after President Richard Nixon conducted
17 a landmark state visit to China.

18 (14) During the military operations of the
19 China Cold War, not fewer than 16 members of the
20 Armed Forces of the United States sacrificed their
21 lives in service to the United States.

22 (15) The fifth unrecognized war era involving
23 active United States military personnel was the Leb-
24 anon Crisis of 1958, which involved more than
25 14,000 United States personnel and resulted in the

1 death of one member of the Armed Forces who sac-
2 rificed his life in service to the United States and
3 five non-combat deaths.

4 (16) The sixth unrecognized war era involving
5 active United States military personnel was the Bay
6 of Pigs invasion in April 1961.

7 (17) The Bay of Pigs invasion was a failed mili-
8 tary invasion of Cuba undertaken by a United
9 States military group sponsored by the Central In-
10 telligence Agency that resulted in not fewer than one
11 death of a member of the Armed Forces who sac-
12 rificed his life in service to the United States and 19
13 non-combat deaths.

14 (18) The seventh unrecognized war era involv-
15 ing active United States military personnel was the
16 Cuban Missile Crisis, which took place between Oc-
17 tober 16 and October 28, 1962.

18 (19) The Cuban Missile Crisis directly related
19 to homeland protection against the deployment of a
20 Soviet ballistic missile in Cuba.

21 (20) During the Cuban Missile Crisis, one
22 member of the Armed Forces sacrificed his life in
23 service to the United States and 19 others died as
24 non-combatants.

1 (21) The eighth unrecognized war era involving
2 active United States military personnel was the Do-
3 minican Civil War in 1965.

4 (22) Operations during the Dominican Civil
5 War resulted in the deaths of 27 members of the
6 Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to
7 the United States, 20 non-combat-related deaths,
8 and 283 wounded.

9 (23) The ninth unrecognized war era involving
10 active United States military personnel was the Iran
11 Hostage Crisis, which lasted from November 4,
12 1979, through January 20, 1981.

13 (24) The Iran Hostage Crisis involved military
14 intervention by the United States which resulted in
15 the deaths of 8 members of the Armed Forces who
16 sacrificed their lives in service to United States.

17 (25) The tenth unrecognized war era involving
18 active United States military personnel was the Sal-
19 vadoran Civil War.

20 (26) The Salvadoran Civil War lasted more
21 than 12 years, through the terms of two Presidential
22 administrations of the United States, and resulted in
23 the deaths of 22 members of the Armed Forces who
24 sacrificed their lives in service to the United States,
25 15 non-combat deaths, and 35 other casualties.

1 (27) The 11th unrecognized war era involving
2 active United States military personnel started on
3 April 5, 1986, when the La Belle discotheque in
4 West Berlin, Germany, was bombed, killing two
5 United States soldiers and wounding 79 other mem-
6 bers of the Armed Forces, which triggered what be-
7 came known as the Libyan Conflict.

8 (28) The military operations of the Libyan Con-
9 flict included numerous air strikes by United States
10 military forces and resulted in the deaths of two
11 members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed their
12 lives in service to the United States.

13 (29) The Libyan Conflict led to the 12th unrec-
14 ognized war era involving active United States mili-
15 tary personnel, known collectively as the Persian
16 Gulf Conflicts, which lasted from July 24, 1987,
17 through September 26, 1988.

18 (30) The Persian Gulf Conflicts resulted in nu-
19 merous military operations and the deaths of not
20 fewer than 39 members of the Armed Forces who
21 sacrificed their lives in service to the United States
22 and 31 wounded.

23 (31) Since the armistice that ended the hos-
24 tilities of the Korean War on January 31, 1955,
25 nearly 100 active United States military personnel

1 have sacrificed their lives in service to the United
2 States in South Korea, and more than 132 people of
3 the United States have been wounded in-country.

4 (32) Since January 1, 1947, through all of the
5 unrecognized war eras involving active United States
6 military personnel, not fewer than 778 combat and
7 non-combat members of the Armed Forces have sac-
8 rificed their lives in service to the United States and
9 not fewer than 797 have been wounded.

10 (33) Since January 1, 1947, the unrecognized
11 war eras involving active United States military per-
12 sonnel who were wounded and killed serving their
13 country were administered under orders from the
14 commander in chief and with the consent of Con-
15 gress, proving that the United States has been con-
16 ducting deadly wartime service to protect the coun-
17 try consistently since December 7, 1941.

18 (34) Eligibility for membership in The Amer-
19 ican Legion is determined by Congress through the
20 establishment of specific dates of declared and offi-
21 cially recognized hostilities in which United States
22 military personnel are on active service.

23 (35) The American Legion provides invaluable
24 services to its members and supports the community

1 of veterans who sacrificed in service of the United
2 States.

3 (36) Membership in The American Legion al-
4 lows veterans to engage in public service activities,
5 such as supporting Boys and Girls State and Na-
6 tion, youth mentorship programs, and benefit assist-
7 ance, career fairs, and employment assistance for
8 veterans.

9 (37) The American Legion has gone on record
10 as supporting the 12 unrecognized war eras involv-
11 ing active United States military personnel since the
12 beginning of World War II.

13 (38) The American Legion has aided, assisted,
14 and comforted the families of the men and women
15 who were called to serve or volunteered to serve dur-
16 ing all of the unrecognized war eras and continues
17 to provide support to veterans of those eras.

18 (39) The American Legion has commended the
19 heroic actions of all military personnel who risked
20 their lives in defense of freedom during each of the
21 unrecognized war eras involving active United States
22 military personnel.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that, in accordance with the history, tradition, and
25 purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper, and

1 reasonable that the privilege of membership in The Amer-
2 ican Legion should be extended to all military personnel
3 who served on active military duty during all of the unrec-
4 ognized war eras involving active United States military
5 personnel.

6 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN**
7 **LEGION.**

8 Section 21703(1)(A) of title 36, United States Code,
9 is amended—

10 (1) in clause (vi), by striking “or”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new
12 clause:

13 “(viii) such other beginning dates
14 through such other ending dates as are
15 provided in the constitution and bylaws of
16 the corporation; or”.

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