

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1727

To direct the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to conduct a review of military service records of Jewish American veterans of World War I, including those previously awarded a military decoration, to determine whether any of the veterans should be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to conduct a review of military service records of Jewish American veterans of World War I, including those previously awarded a military decoration, to determine whether any of the veterans should be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “William Shemin Jewish
3 World War I Veterans Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REVIEW REGARDING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR**
5 **TO JEWISH AMERICAN WORLD WAR I VET-**
6 **ERANS.**

7 (a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Army
8 and the Secretary of the Navy shall review the service
9 records of each Jewish American World War I veteran de-
10 scribed in subsection (b) to determine whether that vet-
11 eran should be posthumously awarded the Medal of
12 Honor.

13 (b) COVERED JEWISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS.—
14 The Jewish American World War I veterans whose service
15 records are to be reviewed under subsection (a) are the
16 following:

17 (1) Any Jewish American World War I veteran
18 who was previously awarded the Distinguished Serv-
19 ice Cross, the Navy Cross, or other military decora-
20 tion for service during World War I.

21 (2) Any other Jewish American World War I
22 veteran whose name is submitted to the Secretary
23 concerned for such purpose by the Jewish War Vet-
24 erans of the United States of America before the
25 end of the one-year period beginning on the date of
26 the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In carrying out the review
2 under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall con-
3 sult with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States
4 of America and with such other veterans service organiza-
5 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

6 (d) RECOMMENDATION BASED ON REVIEW.—If the
7 Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review
8 under subsection (a) of the service records of any Jewish
9 American World War I veteran, that the award of the
10 Medal of Honor to that veteran is warranted, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to the President a recommendation
12 that the President award the Medal of Honor post-
13 humously to that veteran.

14 (e) AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR.—A
15 Medal of Honor may be awarded posthumously to a Jew-
16 ish American World War I veteran in accordance with a
17 recommendation of the Secretary concerned under sub-
18 section (a).

19 (f) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—An award of
20 the Medal of Honor may be made under subsection (e)
21 without regard to—

22 (1) section 3744, 6248, or 8744 of title 10,
23 United States Code; and

24 (2) any regulation or other administrative re-
25 striction on—

1 (A) the time for awarding the Medal of
2 Honor; or

3 (B) the awarding of the Medal of Honor
4 for service for which a Distinguished Service
5 Cross, Navy Cross, or other military decoration
6 has been awarded.

7 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The term “Jewish American World War I
9 veteran” means any person who served in the Armed
10 Forces during World War I and identified himself or
11 herself as Jewish on his or her military personnel
12 records.

13 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

14 (A) the Secretary of the Army, in the case
15 of the Army; and

16 (B) the Secretary of the Navy, in the case
17 of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

18 (3) The term “World War I” means the period
19 beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on Novem-
20 ber 11, 1918.

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