

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 481

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept certain documents as proof of service in determining the eligibility of an individual to receive amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Mr. HECK of Nevada introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept certain documents as proof of service in determining the eligibility of an individual to receive amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, 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. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FILIPINO VET-**
4 **ERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND.**

5 (a) PROOF.—Section 1002 of the American Recovery
6 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (division A of Public Law

1 111–5; 38 U.S.C. 107 note) is amended by adding at the
 2 end the following new subsections:

3 “(m) PROOF OF SERVICE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
 5 as proof of the service described in subsection (d) or
 6 (n)—

7 “(A) the name of the eligible person in-
 8 cluded on the Approved Revised Reconstructed
 9 Guerilla Roster (commonly known as the ‘Mis-
 10 souri List’);

11 “(B) documents included in the claims
 12 folder of the eligible person that prove such
 13 service, including an affidavit from the govern-
 14 ment of the Philippines certifying such service
 15 (AGO Form 23); or

16 “(C) any other documents that are issued
 17 or accepted by the government of the Phil-
 18ippines as proof of such service.

19 “(2) SOURCE OF DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary
 20 may not reject a document under paragraph (1)
 21 solely because the document is issued by the govern-
 22ment of the Philippines.

23 “(3) GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.—In
 24 this subsection, the term ‘government of the Phil-
 25ippines’ includes the Commonwealth of the Phil-

1 ippines, the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines,
2 and the Republic of the Philippines.

3 “(n) CIVILIAN GUERRILLA FORCES.—Service as a ci-
4 vilian guerilla in the Philippines during the period de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) of subsection (d) shall be treated
6 as service described under such subsection for purposes
7 of a person being eligible for benefits under this section.

8 “(o) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of the Army
9 shall cooperate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
10 carrying out this section.”.

11 (b) EXTENDED APPLICATION PERIOD.—Section
12 1002(c) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
13 of 2009 (division A of Public Law 111–5; 38 U.S.C. 107
14 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(3) EXTENDED APPLICATION PERIOD.—Not-
17 withstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may
18 make a payment from the compensation fund to an
19 eligible person who, during the 180-day period be-
20 ginning on the date of the enactment of this section,
21 submits to the Secretary—

22 “(A) a claim for benefits under this sec-
23 tion; or

24 “(B) with respect to a person who filed a
25 claim for benefits under this section during the

- 1 period described in paragraph (1), a new claim
- 2 or an appeal to such previously filed claim.”.

