

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.

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## 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

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## 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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