

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1826

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide payment of Medal of Honor special pension under such title to the surviving spouse of a deceased Medal of Honor recipient, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2019

Mr. LAMB (for himself and Mr. MAST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide payment of Medal of Honor special pension under such title to the surviving spouse of a deceased Medal of Honor recipient, 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 “Veterans Valuing Our  
5 Widows and Widowers Act” or the “Veterans VOW Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDAL OF HONOR SPECIAL PENSION FOR SUR-**  
2 **VIVING SPOUSES.**

3 (a) CODIFICATION OF CURRENT RATE OF SPECIAL  
4 PENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 1562 of title 38,  
5 United States Code, is amended by striking “\$1,000” and  
6 inserting “\$1,329.58”.

7 (b) SPECIAL PENSION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—

8 (1) SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFIT.—Such sub-  
9 section is further amended—

10 (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
12 paragraph:

13 “(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the  
14 Secretary shall pay special pension under this section to  
15 the surviving spouse of a person who was awarded a Medal  
16 of Honor as described in section 1134a(b) of title 10.

17 “(B) No special pension shall be paid to a surviving  
18 spouse of a person under this section unless such surviving  
19 spouse was married to such person—

20 “(i) for one year or more prior to the veteran’s  
21 death; or

22 “(ii) for any period of time if a child was born  
23 of the marriage, or was born to them before the  
24 marriage.”.

25 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Such section is amend-  
2 ed—

3 (i) in subsection (d), by inserting “or  
4 married to more than one person who has  
5 been awarded the Medal of Honor,” after  
6 “Honor,”; and

7 (ii) in subsection (f)(1), by striking  
8 “this section” and inserting “paragraph  
9 (1) of subsection (a), or under paragraph  
10 (2) of such subsection in the case of a  
11 posthumous entry on the Army, Navy, Air  
12 Force, and Coast Guard medal of Honor  
13 Roll,”.

14 (B) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
15 MARRIAGES.—Section 103(d)(5) of such title is  
16 amended by adding at the end the following  
17 new subparagraph:

18 “(E) Section 1562(a)(2), relating to Medal of  
19 Honor special pension.”.

20 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
21 by this subsection shall apply with respect to pay-  
22 ment of pension under section 1562 of title 38,  
23 United States Code, for months beginning after the  
24 date of the enactment of this Act.

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