

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1713

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans exposed to certain herbicides while serving in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. PALLONE) 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 for a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans exposed to certain herbicides while serving in the Armed Forces, 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 “Lonnie Kilpatrick Cen-  
5 tral Pacific Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR**  
2 **CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO CERTAIN**  
3 **HERBICIDES WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED**  
4 **FORCES.**

5 (a) **EXPANSION OF PRESUMPTIONS.**—Section  
6 1116(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after  
8 “1975” the following: “, served on Guam or Amer-  
9 ican Samoa, or in the territorial waters thereof, dur-  
10 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and  
11 ending on July 31, 1980, or served on Johnston  
12 Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll dur-  
13 ing the period beginning on January 1, 1972, and  
14 ending on September 30, 1977”; and

15 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after  
16 “1975” the following: “, served on Guam or Amer-  
17 ican Samoa, or in the territorial waters thereof, dur-  
18 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and  
19 ending on July 31, 1980, or served on Johnston  
20 Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll dur-  
21 ing the period beginning on January 1, 1972, and  
22 ending on September 30, 1977”.

23 (b) **ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL**  
24 **SERVICES.**—Section 1710(e)(4) is amended by striking  
25 subparagraph (A) and inserting the following new sub-  
26 paragraph (A):

1           “(A) The term ‘Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed  
2 veteran’ means a veteran who—

3           “(i) served on active duty—

4           “(I) in the Republic of Vietnam dur-  
5 ing the period beginning on January 9,  
6 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975;

7           “(II) on Guam or American Samoa,  
8 or in the territorial waters thereof, the pe-  
9 riod beginning on January 9, 1962, and  
10 ending on July 31, 1980; or

11           “(III) on Johnston Atoll or on a ship  
12 that called at Johnston Atoll during the  
13 period beginning on January 1, 1972, and  
14 ending on September 30, 1977; and

15           “(ii) the Secretary finds may have been ex-  
16 posed during such service to dioxin or was ex-  
17 posed during such service to a toxic substance  
18 found in a herbicide or defoliant used for mili-  
19 tary purposes during such period.”.

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