

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

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By: **Delegates Wood, Aumann, Bohanan, Boteler, Clagett, DeBoy, Dwyer, Eckardt, Fisher, Frank, George, Haddaway–Ricchio, Hershey, Hogan, Holmes, Jacobs, Jameson, McConkey, McDermott, McMillan, Minnick, Murphy, O'Donnell, Otto, Proctor, Schulz, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Vitale, Weir, and Wilson**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 8, 2011

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Equal Benefits for Treatment for Agent Orange Exposure of Vietnam Veterans Who Served Outside Vietnam

FOR the purpose of urging the United States Congress to extend medical benefits for the treatment for Agent Orange exposure of Vietnam veterans who served outside Vietnam that are equal to the medical benefits provided to Vietnam veterans who served within the country's borders.

WHEREAS, Thousands of veterans of the Vietnam War suffer from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange, a powerful and toxic defoliant used to clear areas of dense vegetation used as enemy hideouts; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange exposure causes a variety of devastating health effects, including increased rates of cancer, immune system disorders, and genetic maladies that lead to birth defects in the children of individuals exposed to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, Although the use of Agent Orange is most commonly associated with the country of Vietnam, it also was used extensively in surrounding areas such as Thailand; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans affected by exposure to Agent Orange proudly and bravely served their country in these surrounding areas without ever actually serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, These veterans are struggling to obtain the same medical benefits to deal with their exposure to Agent Orange as those veterans who served on the ground in Vietnam; now, therefore, be it



RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Congress of the United States is urged to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Vietnam veterans who served in areas surrounding Vietnam are able to receive the same medical benefits for the treatment of Agent Orange exposure as those veterans who served within the country's borders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.