

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1383

To direct certain actions of the United States Government with respect to recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Korean Constabulary, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2017

Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct certain actions of the United States Government with respect to recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Korean Constabulary, 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 “Recognizing Officers
5 and Enlisted Men of the Korean Constabulary Act of
6 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) From November 1945 to January 1949, the
4 Korean Constabulary undertook internal security
5 tasks on behalf of the United States Military Gov-
6 ernment in Korea and the people of South Korea.

7 (2) The Korean Constabulary was initially in-
8 tended to supplement United States military oper-
9 ations during the unification and independence of
10 South Korea.

11 (3) Within two years of its organization, the
12 Korean Constabulary consisted of 25,000 officers
13 and enlisted men.

14 (4) Civil conflict in Korea compelled officers
15 and enlisted men of the Korean Constabulary to de-
16 fend their fledgling country against internal unrest.

17 (5) The Korean Constabulary was under the ju-
18 risdiction of the Department of National Defense,
19 which later became known as the Department of In-
20 ternal Security of the United States Military Gov-
21 ernment in Korea.

22 (6) The Korean Constabulary was the core
23 force upon which the Korean Army was established
24 on August 5, 1948.

25 (7) The Korean Government excluded officers
26 and enlisted men of the Korean Constabulary from

1 benefits when it enacted the Republic of Korea's
2 Military Pension Act, specifically Article 16–9, which
3 states that the calculation of service period shall not
4 include years prior to 1948, the establishment year
5 of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

6 (8) Veterans of the Korean Constabulary be-
7 lieve they have been treated unfairly because they
8 have not been granted pension or aid for healthcare
9 and have been denied Korean military awards and
10 distinguished honors, such as promotion, because
11 their years of service before January 1949 are unac-
12 counted for.

13 (9) The Government of the Republic of Korea
14 owes veterans of the Korean Constabulary due com-
15 pensation for their service to the Government of the
16 Republic of Korea.

17 (10) Veterans of the Korean Constabulary
18 would like to be honored by the Republic of Korea
19 for their service to the Korean Constabulary.

20 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

21 Congress commends the veterans of the Korean Con-
22 stabulary for their bravery and honorable service and
23 thanks them for their support during the difficult times
24 leading to the establishment of the Republic of Korea.

1 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO GOVERNMENT OF THE**
2 **REPUBLIC OF KOREA.**

3 The Secretary of State shall seek to urge the Govern-
4 ment of the Republic of Korea—

5 (1) to reexamine Article 16–9 of the Republic
6 of Korea’s Military Pension Act; and

7 (2) to expeditiously locate the records and re-
8 mains of 7,235 combat dead of the Korean Con-
9 stabulary.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

11 The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress
12 a report that contains the following:

13 (1) A description of potential awards and rec-
14 ognition for officers and enlisted men of the Korean
15 Constabulary.

16 (2) If no such awards or recognition would
17 apply, an examination of the possibility of estab-
18 lishing new such awards and recognition.

19 **SEC. 6. INTERMENT OF KOREAN CONSTABULARY VET-**
20 **ERANS.**

21 Section 2402(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
23 graph:

24 “(10)(A) An individual who served as an officer
25 or enlisted man of the Korean Constabulary and at
26 the time of death—

1 “(i) was a citizen of the United States or
2 an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
3 dence in the United States; and

4 “(ii) resided in the United States.

5 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘Korean Con-
6 stabulary’ means the constabulary force that pro-
7 vided internal security in Korea on behalf of the
8 United States Military Government in Korea from
9 November 1945 to January 1949.”.

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