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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GARAMENDI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

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 “Military Retiree Sur-
5 vivor Comfort Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FORGIVENESS OR OFFSET OF OVERPAYMENT OF**
2 **RETIRED PAY PAID TO A JOINT ACCOUNT**
3 **FOR A PERIOD AFTER THE DEATH OF THE**
4 **RETIRED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) WHEN PAYMENT DEPOSITED TO JOINT AC-
6 COUNT.—Section 2771 of title 10, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(e) In the case of overpayment of retired or retainer
10 pay, arising from payment of such retired or retainer pay
11 for any period after the date of the death of a recipient
12 through the last day of the month in which such death
13 occurs, if such payment is electronically deposited in an
14 accredited financial institution to a joint account bearing
15 the name of the decedent and another individual who is
16 the decedent’s designated beneficiary under subsection
17 (a)(1), the Secretary of Defense—

18 “(1) if the decedent is an individual to whom
19 section 1448 of this title applies, shall elect to—

20 “(A) forgive the overpayment on behalf of
21 the United States; or

22 “(B) offset the overpayment pursuant to
23 subsection (n)(2) of section 1450 this title; or

24 “(2) if the decedent is not an individual to
25 whom section 1448 of this title applies, shall forgive
26 the overpayment on behalf of the United States.”.

1 (b) COORDINATION WITH SURVIVOR BENEFIT
2 PLAN.—Section 1450 of title 10, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, or that ap-
5 plies under subsection (n)” after “under subsection
6 (j)”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(n) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF CERTAIN FINAL RE-
10 TIRE D PAY OVERPAYMENT.—In a case described in sec-
11 tion 2771(e)(1)(B) of this title, if the individual described
12 in that subsection other than the decedent is the bene-
13 ficiary of the decedent under the Plan, each of the first
14 12 payments, following the death of the decedent, of the
15 annuity payable to the decedent’s beneficiary under the
16 Plan, shall be reduced by one-twelfth of such overpay-
17 ment.”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall apply with respect to payments made to
20 persons who die on or after the date of the enactment of
21 this Act.