

By: Representatives Richmond, Maddox

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEND MR. BILL RHODES ON HIS EFFORTS ON THE
PASSAGE OF THE PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE
TOXICS ACT.

Subtitle

TO COMMEND MR. BILL RHODES ON HIS EFFORTS
ON THE PASSAGE OF THE PROMISE TO ADDRESS
COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT.

WHEREAS, Mr. Bill Rhodes, from Mena, Arkansas, was instrumental in the passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics "PACT" Act; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes, who joined the military in 1968, was stationed at Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong in Nam Phong, Thailand, where tactical herbicides were used; and

WHEREAS, after more than a decade of service, Mr. Rhodes exited military service with the rank of staff sergeant and subsequently developed heart disease, prostate cancer, and diabetes, which he attributed to exposure to tactical herbicides used while on the military base; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes was denied services by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating that Mr. Rhodes did not qualify under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 or any subsequent laws; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2019, Mr. Rhodes worked with United States Senator John Boozman who introduced legislation expanding eligibility of military



service members harmed by exposure to chemicals and herbicides while serving in the military; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Senator Boozman again introduced legislation and working in a bi-partisan manner and with the tireless efforts of Mr. Rhodes, his proposed legislation was enacted and signed into law by President Joe Biden in August of 2022 with Mr. Rhodes present for the signing; and

WHEREAS, in championing this bill before the United States Congress, Mr. Rhodes spent countless hours in Washington D.C. and during the summer of 2022, spent two (2) weeks in Washington D.C. and had fifty-seven (57) meetings in nine (9) days with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate or their staffs.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives commend Mr. Bill Rhodes for his service and dedication to the members of the military service in his efforts to support the needs of veterans by championing the passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Mr. Bill Rhodes by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.