



A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 315339 Tamuning, Guam 96931  
Telephone: (671) 688-7277

U.S. House Judiciary Oversight  
Subcommittee: Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

March 24, 2021

*Testimony by: Mr. Robert N. Celestial*

Ref: Examining the Need to Expand Eligibility Under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

Greetings and Thank you Chairman Steve Cohen, Ranking Member Rep. Mike Johnson and honorable committee members. My name is Robert N. Celestial Sgt., U.S. Army Retired (DAV) Enewetak Cleanup Veteran. I am from the Island of Guam U.S.A. and I especially want to thank Senator Mike Crapo (ID), Senator Ben Ray Lujan (NM) and all House staff members. The people of Guam were exposed to nuclear fallout from the Pacific Nuclear Testing in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1962 when 66 Nuclear and Hydrogen bombs were detonated. It was without their knowledge and consent that throughout those years they were exposed to ionizing radiation such as Iodine 131, Strontium 90, and Cesium 137.

This information was kept secret until 1994 when the Advisory Committee for the Human Radiation Experiments information was published, and declassified documents were stored in the Department of Energy HREX website.

On July 10, 2000, Congress passed Public Law 106-245 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments (RECA) and In September 2002, in response to a congressional mandate (PL 107-206), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) asked the National Research of Council's Board on Radiation Effects Research to convene a committee. Under congressional mandate, HRSA charged the committee to consider the issues and make recommendations, regarding three mandates one of which being Item C ***“whether other groups of people or additional geographic areas should be***

***covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Program (2005 National Research Council)."***

In 2004, I was invited by Dr. Isaf Al Nabulsi Senior Director for the Board of Radiation Effects Research (BRER) Committee to present oral and written testimony here in Washington D.C. at the National Academy of Science Building. I presented evidence and oral testimony before Dr. Preston, Dr. Evan Douple and other scientists on the BRER committee. I also included sworn statements from Navy Lt. Bert Schreiber who was the Chemical, Biological, Radiological Officer on Guam in 1952. He testified that "the Geiger counters were off the scale" in November 1952. On October 31, 1952 the first thermonuclear device, with code name Mike, was detonated in the Marshall Islands. It had a total yield of 10.4 Megatons. On November 3, 1952 radiation was detected on Guam. In 2005, the National Research Council published their final report *Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program*. The report stated "the committee initiated an independent assessment of the radiological consequences to the weapons test in the Pacific to people living on Guam (National Research Council of the National Academies, pg. 200)." Further, the National Research Council of the National Academies report concluded (2005)

***"As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinder (pg. 200)."***

Chairman Cohen and Committee members, I ask not only for your support but for your approval for the expansion of eligibility under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act so that not only the people of Guam be included in RECA as downwinders and everyone that has been affected by their exposure to radiation and uranium mining. We are greatly thankful and may God bless.



Robert N. Celestial

Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors (PARS), President

P.O. BOX 315339

Tamuning, Guam 96931

Phone: 671-688-7277 (PARS)