

Dear Friends,

I had been working on enacting this legislation, some time ago. My friend Jim Alexander, MD (CT Marine Corps League) had reminded me of how important this was for the Marine Corps league. So I did a little more work. Here are fruits of their work and the tireless efforts of the courageous protagonists who worked towards this end; in the midst of their grief, after several people including little Janey died.

Today I got this letter. This is Great News. May little Janey Ensminger rest in Peace. She has done her part to make this come to pass in this very divided Congress. We are all in her debt. On August 6 2012 when our President signed this bill into law this symbolic measure of Justice accrued to our little one who was taken from her Marine Corps Family tragically at a very early age. She will never be forgotten.

I welcome your comments.

May God Bless the USMC and comfort those who were victims of the toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune and their grieving families.
May God Bless the USA.

Semper FI,
Warm Regards,
Velandy Manohar, MD

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Dear Dr. Manohar,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Janey Ensminger Act. I appreciate your comments and having the benefit of your views.

Camp Lejeune, a U.S. Marine base in North Carolina, has been in operation since 1941. In 1982 the Marine Corps discovered the presence of volatile organic compounds in the drinking water supply for the Camp Lejeune base. There have been high rates of cancer and other diseases related to toxin exposure among veterans and their families stationed on the base between 1941 and 1982. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is currently reviewing relevant information and data about the sources of benzene contamination on the base.

In order to ensure that veterans receive the medical treatment they need, Rep. Brad Miller of North Carolina introduced the Janey Ensminger Act (H.R. 1742) on May 5, 2011. This legislation, which I am a co-sponsor of, makes any veteran who was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during a period in which the water there was contaminated by volatile organic compounds, including human carcinogens, eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care through the Department of Veterans Affairs for any illness, notwithstanding insufficient medical evidence to conclude that the illness is attributable to such contamination. H.R. 1742 was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs where it awaits further consideration.

You may be interested to learn that the text of H.R. 1742 was included in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (H.R. 1627), which passed the House on May 23, 2012 and was signed into law on August 6, 2012. H.R. 1742 will ensure veterans who were on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between 1957 and 1987, as well as family members of such servicemembers residing at Camp Lejeune, will be eligible for hospital care and medical services for illnesses or conditions such as lung, breast, esophageal, bladder or kidney cancer, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and female infertility. As a cosponsor of the Janey Ensminger Act, I am pleased that this legislation was finally passed to ensure medical care for veterans and their families who resided at Camp Lejeune.

Again, thank you for sharing your views on this issue with me. Should you have any additional comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the future. For more information on my work in Congress, please visit my website at courtney.house.gov and sign up for my e-newsletter at courtney.house.gov/forms/emailsignup. You can also connect with me at facebook.com/joecourtney or receive updates from twitter.com/repjoecourtney.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

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