

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 1743

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize memorialization of deceased spouses and surviving spouses of veterans and deceased members of the Armed Forces whose remains are not available for interment.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 1998

Mr. SPECTER (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize memorialization of deceased spouses and surviving spouses of veterans and deceased members of the Armed Forces whose remains are not available for interment.

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. AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH MEMORIAL**  
4 **HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR SPOUSES**  
5 **AND SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS AND**  
6 **DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS.**

7       Section 2306(b) of title 38, United States Code, is  
8 amended—

1           (1) by adding “(which for purposes of this sub-  
2           section includes a person who died in the active mili-  
3           tary, naval, or air service) or any spouse or surviving  
4           spouse (which for purposes of this section includes  
5           an unremarried surviving spouse who had a subse-  
6           quent remarriage which was terminated by death or  
7           divorce) of a veteran” following “any veteran”;

8           (2) by striking out “veteran’s” in paragraph (2)  
9           and inserting in lieu thereof “individual’s”; and

10          (3) by adding at the end thereof “Where the  
11          Secretary has furnished a memorial headstone or  
12          marker under this subsection for the purpose of  
13          commemorating a veteran, or has furnished a head-  
14          stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a veteran  
15          under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary  
16          shall, where feasible, add a memorial inscription to  
17          the existing headstone or marker in lieu of furnish-  
18          ing a memorial headstone or marker under this sub-  
19          section for the veteran’s surviving spouse.”.

20 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO PROVISIONS GOVERNING MEMO-**  
21 **RIAL AREAS.**

22          Section 2403(b) of title 38, United States Code, is  
23          amended by striking all after “appropriate” and inserting  
24          in lieu thereof “group memorials shall be erected to honor  
25          the memory of groups of individuals referred to in sub-

1 section (a) of this section, and appropriate memorial  
2 headstones and markers shall be erected to honor the  
3 memory of individuals referred to in subsection (a) of this  
4 section or subsection (b) of section 2306 of this title.”.

5 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6       The amendments made by this Act shall be effective  
7 with respect to deaths occurring after the date of this en-  
8 actment.

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