

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 695

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in various locations in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 shall establish, in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38,
4 United States Code, the following:

5 (1) A national cemetery in the Atlanta, Geor-
6 gia, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans
7 and their families.

8 (2) A national cemetery in Southwestern Penn-
9 sylvania to serve the needs of veterans and their
10 families.

11 (3) A national cemetery in the Miami, Florida,
12 metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and
13 their families.

14 (4) A national cemetery in the Detroit, Michi-
15 gan, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans
16 and their families.

17 (5) A national cemetery in the Sacramento,
18 California, metropolitan area to serve the needs of
19 veterans and their families.

20 (b) CONSULTATION IN SELECTION OF SITES.—Be-
21 fore selecting the sites for the national cemeteries to be
22 established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-
23 sult with—

24 (1) in the case of the national cemetery to be
25 established under paragraph (1) of that subsection,
26 appropriate officials of the State of Georgia and ap-

1 appropriate officials of local governments in the At-
2 lanta, Georgia, metropolitan area;

3 (2) in the case of the national cemetery to be
4 established under paragraph (2) of that subsection,
5 appropriate officials of the State of Pennsylvania
6 and appropriate officials of local governments in
7 Southwestern Pennsylvania;

8 (3) in the case of the national cemetery to be
9 established under paragraph (3) of that subsection,
10 appropriate officials of the State of Florida and ap-
11 propriate officials of local governments in the Miami,
12 Florida, metropolitan area;

13 (4) in the case of the national cemetery to be
14 established under paragraph (4) of that subsection,
15 appropriate officials of the State of Michigan and
16 appropriate officials of local governments in the De-
17 troit, Michigan, metropolitan area;

18 (5) in the case of the national cemetery to be
19 established under paragraph (5) of that subsection,
20 appropriate officials of the State of California and
21 appropriate officials of local governments in the Sac-
22 ramento, California, metropolitan area; and

23 (6) appropriate officials of the United States,
24 including the Administrator of General Services,
25 with respect to land belonging to the United States

1 that would be suitable as a location for the establish-
2 ment of each such national cemetery.

3 (c) REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
5 to Congress a report on the establishment of the national
6 cemeteries under subsection (a). The report shall set forth
7 a schedule for the establishment of each such cemetery
8 and an estimate of the costs associated with the establish-
9 ment of each such cemetery.

10 **SEC. 2. USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AT
12 SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY.—Notwithstanding sec-
13 tion 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs may provide for flat grave
15 markers at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico.

16 (b) REPORT COMPARING USE OF FLAT GRAVE
17 MARKERS AND UPRIGHT GRAVE MARKERS.—(1) Not
18 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the
20 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
21 House of Representatives a report assessing the advan-
22 tages and disadvantages of the use by the National Ceme-
23 tery Administration of flat grave markers and upright
24 grave markers.

1 (2) The report under paragraph (1) shall set forth
2 the advantages and disadvantages of the use of each type
3 of grave marker referred to in that paragraph, and shall
4 include criteria to be utilizing in determining whether to
5 prefer the use of one such type of grave marker over the
6 other.

Passed the Senate August 4, 1999.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.