

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 312

To authorize the presentation of flags at the funerals of civilian Federal employees engaged in the support of military operations who have died in combat zones in the course of their duties.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2007

Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. NORWOOD, and Ms. BORDALLO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To authorize the presentation of flags at the funerals of civilian Federal employees engaged in the support of military operations who have died in combat zones in the course of their duties.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Civilian Service Rec-
5 ognition Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Many Americans are unaware that there are
2 thousands of civilian Federal employees serving the
3 Nation in the dangerous theaters of war in both Iraq
4 and Afghanistan, and elsewhere, in the Global War
5 on Terror.

6 (2) These employees voluntarily risk their lives
7 to serve the Nation overseas and support the cause
8 of freedom.

9 (3) The patriotism of these employees does not
10 begin or end in a uniform, but flows from the shin-
11 ing example of many of the Nation's founding fa-
12 thers, who, while not serving in the military, sac-
13 rificed everything for the sake of liberty.

14 (4) In light of the new and unconventional war-
15 fare that characterizes the Global War on Terror, it
16 is no surprise that thousands of these employees en-
17 dure danger and injury, and tragically death, while
18 serving beside the Nation's troops.

19 (5) These brave employees serve the Nation
20 openly and clandestinely, contributing to the cause
21 of freedom and democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan
22 and preserving the security of the United States.

23 (6) The dedication and service of these employ-
24 ees exemplify the giving nature of the United States,

1 as well as the resolve of the Nation, to spread de-
2 mocracy, freedom, and peace throughout the world.

3 (7) These valiant employees, who have lived and
4 died beside the Nation's troops in war zones in the
5 support of freedom, should be honored with a pres-
6 entation of a flag from a Nation grateful for their
7 service.

8 **SEC. 3. FLAG CEREMONY FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOY-**
9 **EES WHO DIE IN COMBAT ZONES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of
11 this section, the head of an executive agency shall furnish,
12 upon receipt of a request under subsection (b), a flag of
13 the United States to drape the casket of an individual
14 who—

15 (1) was an employee of the agency engaged in
16 the performance of one or more functions in support
17 of military operations;

18 (2) was located or stationed in a combat zone
19 while so engaged in the course of the individual's
20 employment; and

21 (3) died while physically present in the combat
22 zone during the period in which the individual was
23 so engaged.

1 (b) REQUEST FOR FLAGS.—The head of an executive
2 agency shall furnish a flag for a deceased individual under
3 subsection (a) upon the request of—

4 (1) the deceased individual's next of kin; or

5 (2) a close friend or associate of the deceased
6 individual if no request is made for the flag by the
7 next of kin.

8 (c) PRESENTATION OF FLAG.—After the burial of an
9 individual described in subsection (a), the head of an execu-
10 tive agency shall present a flag furnished under sub-
11 section (a) to an individual making a request under sub-
12 section (b).

13 (d) MANNER OF CEREMONY.—A flag shall be fur-
14 nished and presented under this section in the same man-
15 ner as a flag furnished and presented on behalf of a mem-
16 ber of the Armed Services dying in active duty.

17 (e) LIMITATION ON FLAGS PROVIDED.—If a flag fur-
18 nished under subsection (a) is given to an individual de-
19 scribed in subsection (b)(2), no flag shall be given to any
20 other person on account of the death of such individual.

21 (f) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The head of an ex-
22 ecutive agency may disclose information necessary to show
23 that the deceased individual is an individual described in
24 subsection (a) to the extent that such information is not

1 classified and to the extent that such disclosure does not
2 endanger the national security of the United States.

3 **SEC. 4. EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION OF FLAG CEREMONY**
4 **BENEFIT.**

5 The head of an executive agency shall notify employ-
6 ees of the agency who are located or stationed in a combat
7 zone for purposes of the performance of one or more func-
8 tions in support of military operations of the flag cere-
9 mony benefit provided for under section 3.

10 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

12 (1) **COMBAT ZONE.**—The term “combat zone”
13 means an area in which a member of the uniformed
14 service on duty in such area may qualify for special
15 pay under section 310 of title 37, United States
16 Code.

17 (2) **EMPLOYEE.**—The term “employee” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5,
19 United States Code, and includes employees of and
20 donors of volunteer services to temporary organiza-
21 tions under section 3161 of such title.

22 (3) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “executive
23 agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive

1 agency’’ in section 501 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

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