

Union Calendar No. 237

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1338

[Report No. 114–312]

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOK, Mr. MARINO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NEAL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. NUGENT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 26, 2015

Additional sponsors: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ROSS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. LATTA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr.

CRAWFORD, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington

OCTOBER 26, 2015

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 6, 2015]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Dignified Interment of*
 5 *Our Veterans Act of 2015”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON**
 7 **MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UN-**
 8 **CLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NA-**
 9 **TIONAL CEMETERIES.**

10 *(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than*
 11 *one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*
 12 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—*

13 *(1) complete a study on matters relating to the*
 14 *interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in na-*
 15 *tional cemeteries under the control of the National*
 16 *Cemetery Administration; and*

17 *(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings*
 18 *of the Secretary with respect to the study required*
 19 *under paragraph (1).*

20 *(b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under*
 21 *subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:*

22 *(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to*
 23 *unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate*
 24 *of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.*

1 (2) *Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of*
2 *the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with*
3 *persons or entities having custody of unclaimed re-*
4 *mains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of*
5 *veterans in national cemeteries under the control of*
6 *the National Cemetery Administration.*

7 (3) *Assessing State and local laws that affect the*
8 *ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of*
9 *veterans in national cemeteries under the control of*
10 *the National Cemetery Administration.*

11 (4) *Developing recommendations for such legisla-*
12 *tive or administrative action as the Secretary con-*
13 *siders appropriate.*

14 (c) *METHODOLOGY.—*

15 (1) *NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In esti-*
16 *imating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans*
17 *under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review*
18 *such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary con-*
19 *siders appropriate, including a subset of funeral*
20 *homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed vet-*
21 *erans remains.*

22 (2) *ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—*
23 *In assessing State and local laws under subsection*
24 *(b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of appli-*
25 *cable State and local laws as the Secretary considers*

1 *appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State*
2 *and local laws.*

3 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO**
4 **SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES OF DEPART-**
5 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 *Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Ac-*
7 *countability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C.*
8 *703 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and*
9 *inserting the following: “, of which, during fiscal year 2016,*
10 *not more than an aggregate amount of \$2,000,000 may be*
11 *paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs*
12 *who are members of the Senior Executive Service.”.*

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