

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 497

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2019

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. DEFAZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits, 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 “Burial Rights for
5 America’s Veterans’ Efforts Act of 2019” or the “BRAVE
6 Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE TO CERTAIN FUNERAL BENEFITS UNDER**
2 **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **FUNERAL EXPENSES.**—Section 2302(a) of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking “\$300” and inserting “\$780 (as
7 increased from time to time under subsection (c))”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(c) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
12 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
13 est dollar) in the maximum amount of burial and funeral
14 expenses payable under subsection (a) equal to the per-
15 centage by which—

16 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
17 United States city average) for the 12-month period
18 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
19 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
20 ceeds

21 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
22 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
23 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

24 (b) **DEATH FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-**
25 **ABILITY.**—Section 2307 of such title is amended—

1 (1) by striking “In any case” and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case”;

4 (2) by striking “\$2,000” and inserting “\$2,000
5 (as increased from time to time under subsection
6 (b))”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(b) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
10 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
11 est dollar) in the maximum amount of burial and funeral
12 expenses payable under subsection (a) equal to the per-
13 centage by which—

14 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
15 United States city average) for the 12-month period
16 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
17 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
18 ceeds

19 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
20 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
21 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this Act shall apply to deaths that occur after the day that
24 is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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