

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2701

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## AN ACT

To direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Servicemembers  
3 Religious Heritage Restoration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds the following:

6           (1)   An    estimated    900    American-Jewish  
7       servicemembers of the Armed Forces, killed in World  
8       War I and World War II and buried overseas in  
9       United States military cemeteries were, for various  
10      reasons, mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses. In  
11      most instances, those mistakes were made inadvert-  
12      ently.

13          (2)   In 2022, more than 2,000,000 people vis-  
14      ited the United States World War I and World War  
15      II cemeteries in foreign countries.

16          (3)   American-Jewish servicemembers played a  
17      vital role in the Allied victories in World War I and  
18      World War II.

19          (4)   American-Jewish    servicemembers    who  
20      fought and died for the United States must have  
21      their heritage properly recognized and honored.

22          (5)   The United States Government has a sol-  
23      emn responsibility to ensure that every American  
24      servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is  
25      properly honored.

1           (6) The work of properly identifying American-  
2       Jewish servicemembers buried overseas is vital and  
3       integral to the responsibility of the American Battle  
4       Monuments Commission to ensure that past mis-  
5       takes in honoring those servicemembers who died in  
6       the line of duty are corrected.

7   **SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**  
8                   **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

9       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The American Battle Monu-  
10      ments Commission shall establish a program to identify  
11      covered members and to contact survivors and descend-  
12      ants of such covered members. Such program shall be  
13      known as the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage  
14      Restoration Program”.

15      (b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the  
16      Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration  
17      Program during the first five fiscal years that begin after  
18      the date of the enactment of this Act.

19      (c) CONTRACTS.—

20           (1) AUTHORITY.—During each fiscal year de-  
21      scribed in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek  
22      to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organiza-  
23      tion under which such nonprofit organization shall  
24      carry out the purpose described in subsection (a).

1           (2) TERM; AMOUNT.—Each contract under this  
2 subsection shall be for one year and in the amount  
3 of \$500,000 to the nonprofit organization.

4           (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under  
5 this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to  
6 a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated ca-  
7 pability and expertise in carrying out the purpose  
8 described in subsection (a).

9           (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           (1) The term “covered member” means a de-  
11 ceased member of the Armed Forces who was Jew-  
12 ish and buried—

13                   (A) in a United States military cemetery  
14 located outside the United States; and

15                   (B) under a marker that indicates such  
16 member was not Jewish.

17           (2) The term “nonprofit organization” means  
18 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the  
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from  
20 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

1 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**  
2 **PENSION.**

3 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,  
4 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-  
5 ing “January 31, 2032”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 15,  
2025.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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