

Union Calendar No. 214

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2701

[Report No. 119-258]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. CASE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BELL, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. MACE, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KEAN, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

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 *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 7, 2025]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Servicemembers*
5 *Religious Heritage Restoration Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

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

15 (2) *In 2022, more than 2,000,000 people visited*
16 *the United States World War I and World War II*
17 *cemeteries in foreign countries.*

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

21 (4) *American-Jewish servicemembers who fought*
22 *and died for the United States must have their herit-*
23 *age properly recognized and honored.*

24 (5) *The United States Government has a solemn*
25 *responsibility to ensure that every American service-*

1 *member killed in action and buried overseas is prop-*
 2 *erly honored.*

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

9 **SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**
 10 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

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

17 (b) *DURATION.*—*The Commission shall carry out the*
 18 *Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Pro-*
 19 *gram during the first five fiscal years that begin after the*
 20 *date of the enactment of this Act.*

21 (c) *CONTRACTS.*—

22 (1) *AUTHORITY.*—*During each fiscal year de-*
 23 *scribed in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek to*
 24 *enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization*

1 *under which such nonprofit organization shall carry*
 2 *out the purpose described in subsection (a).*

3 (2) *TERM; AMOUNT.—Each contract under this*
 4 *subsection shall be for one year and in the amount of*
 5 *\$500,000 to the nonprofit organization.*

6 (3) *PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under*
 7 *this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to*
 8 *a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated capa-*
 9 *bility and expertise in carrying out the purpose de-*
 10 *scribed in subsection (a).*

11 (d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry*
 12 *out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to*
 13 *the Commission \$500,000 for each fiscal year described in*
 14 *subsection (b).*

15 (e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

16 (1) *The term “covered member” means a de-*
 17 *ceased member of the Armed Forces who was Jewish*
 18 *and buried—*

19 (A) *in a United States military cemetery*
 20 *located outside the United States; and*

21 (B) *under a marker that indicates such*
 22 *member was not Jewish.*

23 (2) *The term “nonprofit organization” means an*
 24 *organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the In-*

1 *ternal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax-*
2 *ation under section 501(a) of such Code.*

3 ***SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF***
4 ***PENSION.***

5 *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*
6 *amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting*
7 *“January 31, 2032”.*

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[Report No. 119-258]

A BILL

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

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