

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1318

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 7, 2025

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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:

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

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

11 (3) American-Jewish servicemembers played a
12 vital role in the Allied victories in World War I and
13 World War II.

14 (4) American-Jewish servicemembers who
15 fought and died for the United States must have
16 their heritage properly recognized and honored.

17 (5) The United States Government has a sol-
18 emn responsibility to ensure that every American
19 servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is
20 properly honored.

21 (6) The work of properly identifying American-
22 Jewish servicemembers buried overseas is vital and
23 integral to the responsibility of the American Battle
24 Monuments Commission to ensure that past mis-

1 takes in honoring those servicemembers who died in
 2 the line of duty are corrected.

3 **SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**
 4 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

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

11 (b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the
 12 Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration
 13 Program during the first 10 fiscal years that begin after
 14 the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (c) CONTRACTS.—

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

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

24 (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under
 25 this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to

1 a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated ca-
 2 pability and expertise in carrying out the purpose
 3 described in subsection (a).

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
 5 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to
 6 the Commission \$500,000 for each fiscal year described
 7 in subsection (b).

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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