

Calendar No. 201

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1318

[Report No. 119–89]

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, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. HUSTED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 22 (legislative day, OCTOBER 21), 2025

Reported by Mr. MORAN, without amendment

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 vis-
16 ited the United States World War I and World War
17 II 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
22 fought and died for the United States must have
23 their heritage properly recognized and honored.

24 (5) The United States Government has a sol-
25 emn responsibility to ensure that every American

1 servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is
2 properly 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 mis-
7 takes in honoring those servicemembers who died in
8 the line 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 descend-
14 ants of such covered members. Such program shall be
15 known as the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage
16 Restoration Program”.

17 (b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the
18 Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration
19 Program during the first 10 fiscal years that begin after
20 the 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
24 to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organiza-

1 tion under which such nonprofit organization shall
2 carry 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
5 of \$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 ca-
9 pability and expertise in carrying out the purpose
10 described 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
14 in 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 Jew-
18 ish 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
24 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the

- 1 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
- 2 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

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Reported without amendment