

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3715

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida 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 permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons.

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 “Final Farewell Act
5 of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF INTERMENTS, FUNERALS, ME-**
2 **MORIAL SERVICES, AND CEREMONIES AT NA-**
3 **TIONAL CEMETERIES AND STATE CEME-**
4 **TERIES RECEIVING GRANTS DURING WEEK-**
5 **ENDS WHEN REQUESTED FOR RELIGIOUS OR**
6 **CULTURAL REASONS.**

7 (a) NATIONAL CEMETERIES.—Section 2404 of title
8 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new subsection:

10 “(i) The Secretary shall permit the interment or fu-
11 neral, memorial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran
12 at a national cemetery during weekends, other than Fed-
13 eral holiday weekends, upon a request of the next-of-kin
14 of the veteran made for religious or cultural reasons, as
15 determined by the Secretary.”.

16 (b) STATE CEMETERIES.—Section 2408(c) of such
17 title is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
19 graph (3); and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
21 lowing new paragraph (2):

22 “(2) In addition to the conditions specified in sub-
23 section (b) and paragraph (1), any grant to a State under
24 this section to assist such State in establishing a veterans’
25 cemetery shall be made on the condition that such ceme-
26 tery shall permit the interment or funeral, memorial serv-

1 ice, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at the cemetery
2 during weekends, other than Federal holiday weekends,
3 upon a request of the next-of-kin of the veteran made for
4 religious or cultural reasons, as determined by the Sec-
5 retary.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply with respect to deaths occurring
8 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (d) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—Upon receipt of a re-
10 quest for an application for burial or interment in a na-
11 tional cemetery, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
12 provide notice to the individual submitting the request of
13 the opportunity to request the interment or funeral, me-
14 morial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at a na-
15 tional cemetery during weekends, other than Federal holi-
16 day weekends, for religious or cultural reasons, as author-
17 ized by subsection (i) of section 2404 of title 38, United
18 States Code, as added by subsection (a).

○