

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1318

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.

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

SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The American Battle Monuments Commission shall establish a program to identify covered members and to contact survivors and descendants of such covered members. Such program shall be known as the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Program”.

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

(c) CONTRACTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—During each fiscal year described in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization under which such nonprofit organization shall 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) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
 10 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to
 11 the Commission \$500,000 for each fiscal year described
 12 in subsection (b).

13 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

17 (A) in a United States military cemetery
 18 located outside the United States; and

19 (B) under a marker that indicates such
 20 member was not Jewish.

21 (2) The term “nonprofit organization” means
 22 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.

Passed the Senate November 20, 2025.

Attest:

Secretary.

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