

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 120

Urging cemeteries to maintain the flags placed on the grave sites of American veterans on Memorial Day through at least May 31.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2001

Mr. GRUCCI (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging cemeteries to maintain the flags placed on the grave sites of American veterans on Memorial Day through at least May 31.

Whereas Decoration Day (now Memorial Day), which became a Federal holiday in 1888, was established to allow Civil War veterans who were employed by the Federal Government to pay their respects to those who gave their lives in the conflict, without losing a day's pay;

Whereas it was the intent of Congress that Memorial Day be a time to reflect on our hard earned freedom and to pay our respects to those men and women who gave their lives to preserve that freedom;

Whereas, in 1968, Memorial Day was changed by law from its traditional date of May 30th to the last Monday of May;

Whereas the true meaning of Memorial Day has been too often lost to commercialism, leisure, and recreation;

Whereas, on Memorial Day, our Nation's flag is placed on the graves of our fallen veterans to honor their bravery and supreme sacrifice;

Whereas many cemeteries remove flags from the graves of veterans immediately after the observation of Memorial Day; and

Whereas there is no more fitting remembrance of veterans and their service to this Nation than the flag upon their place of rest: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives —

2 (1) urges all cemeteries to maintain the Amer-
3 ican flags placed on the graves of veterans on Memo-
4 rial Day until at least May 31, the day after the
5 original date of Decoration Day, except in the case
6 of inclement weather; and

7 (2) encourages all cemeteries to create partner-
8 ships with local veterans' organizations to allow vet-
9 erans to respectfully assist in the removal of the
10 flags.

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