

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 502

To increase the amounts payable under the Department of Defense death gratuity program and the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To increase the amounts payable under the Department of Defense death gratuity program and the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program.

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 “Honoring Fallen He-
5 roes Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN DEATH GRATUITY PAYABLE WITH RE-**
2 **SPECT TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) AMOUNT OF DEATH GRATUITY.—Section
4 1478(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by
5 striking “\$12,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to deaths occurring
8 on or after October 1, 2000.

9 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN COVERAGE UNDER**
10 **SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**
11 **PROGRAM.**

12 (a) INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Paragraph (3)(A)(i) of
13 section 1967(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
14 ed by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$400,000”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1967(d) of
16 such title is amended by striking “of \$250,000” and in-
17 serting “provided for a member under subparagraph
18 (A)(i) of subsection (a)(3)”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
21 month that begins more than 120 days after the date of
22 the enactment of this Act.

23 (d) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY OF INCREASE IN
24 MAXIMUM SGLI BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS DYING IN PER-
25 FORMANCE OF DUTY ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2000.—
26 Notwithstanding subsection (c), the amendment made by

1 subsection (a) to section 1967(a)(3)(A)(i) of title 38,
2 United States Code, shall take effect as of October 1,
3 2000, with respect to any member of the uniformed serv-
4 ices who died in the performance of duty (as determined
5 by the Secretary concerned) during the period beginning
6 on October 1, 2000, and ending at the date specified in
7 subsection (c) and who on the date of death was insured
8 under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program
9 under subchapter III of chapter 19 of title 38, United
10 States Code, for the maximum coverage available under
11 that program on that date.

12 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
14 retary concerned” has the meaning given that term
15 in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

16 (2) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “uni-
17 formed services” has the meaning given that term in
18 section 1965(6) of title 38, United States Code.

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