

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2320

To direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for the ongoing maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2012

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for the ongoing maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Republic of the Philippines, 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 “Remembering Amer-
5 ica’s Forgotten Veterans Cemetery Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Clark Veterans Cemetery, located in the Re-
2 public of the Philippines, contains the remains of
3 more than 8,300 members of the United States
4 Armed Forces and their dependents.

5 (2) In 1991, following the eruption of Mount
6 Pinatubo, the Air Force evacuated Clark Air Force
7 Base ending more than 90 years of custodianship of
8 Clark Veterans Cemetery and its predecessor ceme-
9 teries by the United States Government.

10 (3) From 1991 until 1994, Clark Veterans
11 Cemetery, already covered by a layer of volcanic ash,
12 deteriorated further as plant life overtook what re-
13 mained of many graves and monuments, failing to
14 give the members of the Armed Forces and veterans
15 interred at Clark Veterans Cemetery the honorable
16 resting place their brave service deserves.

17 (4) Since 1994, volunteers have attempted to
18 maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery without assist-
19 ance from the United States Government.

20 (5) The mission of the American Battle Monu-
21 ments Commission is “designing, constructing, oper-
22 ating and maintaining permanent American ceme-
23 teries in foreign countries”.

24 (6) Subsection (a) of section 2102 of title 36,
25 United States Code, provides the Commission with

1 the authority to employ such personnel as may be
2 necessary for the Commission to carry out its re-
3 sponsibilities with respect to Clark Veteran Ceme-
4 tery.

5 (7) Subsection (b) of such section authorizes
6 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the
7 United States Government to make personnel and
8 facilities available to the Commission, on a reimburs-
9 able basis, to assist the Commission in carrying out
10 its responsibilities with respect to Clark Veterans
11 Cemetery.

12 (8) Section 2103(e) of such title authorizes the
13 Commission to solicit and receive funds and in-kind
14 donations and gifts from any State, municipal, or
15 private source to help carry out its responsibilities
16 with respect to Clark Veterans Cemetery.

17 **SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF CLARK VETERANS CEMETERY BY**
18 **AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMIS-**
19 **SION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 2104 of
21 title 36, United States Code, Clark Veterans Cemetery in
22 the Republic of the Philippines shall be treated as a ceme-
23 tery that the American Battle Monuments Commission
24 and the Secretary of the Army decided under such section
25 will become a permanent cemetery and the Commission

1 shall restore, operate, and maintain Clark Veterans Ceme-
2 tery under such section in cooperation with the Govern-
3 ment of the Republic of the Philippines.

4 (b) FUNDING.—The requirement of subsection (a) for
5 the American Battle Monuments Commission to restore,
6 operate, and maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery shall be
7 subject to the availability of appropriations for the restora-
8 tion, operation, and maintenance of cemeteries by the
9 American Battle Monuments Commission.

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