

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2700

To amend title 38, United States Code, to identify the persons who are eligible to request headstones or markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2014

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to identify the persons who are eligible to request headstones or markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Honor Those Who
5 Served Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO REQUEST HEADSTONES OR**
2 **MARKERS FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY**
3 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2306 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(h)(1) A person may request a headstone or marker
8 to commemorate a decedent under this section if the per-
9 son is—

10 “(A) the decedent’s next of kin;

11 “(B) a person authorized in writing by the de-
12 cedent’s next of kin to make such request;

13 “(C) a personal representative authorized in
14 writing by the decedent to make such request;

15 “(D) in the case of a decedent for which no per-
16 son described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) may
17 be identified, a State veterans service agency, a mili-
18 tary researcher, a local historian, or a genealogist or
19 other person familiar with the research sources and
20 methods necessary to prove the identity of the dece-
21 dent; or

22 “(E) in the case of a decedent who is a veteran
23 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at
24 least 75 years before the date on which the head-
25 stone or marker is requested, any person.

1 “(2) In the case of a request for a headstone or mark-
 2 er under this section for a decedent described in subpara-
 3 graph (E) of paragraph (1) made by a person who is not
 4 the decedent’s next of kin, the Secretary shall ensure that
 5 the decedent’s next of kin has the opportunity to object
 6 to the placement of the headstone or marker or request
 7 the removal of the headstone or marker, as appropriate.

8 “(3) In the case of a request for a headstone or mark-
 9 er under this section for a decedent described in subpara-
 10 graph (D) or (E) of paragraph (1) made by a person who
 11 is not described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of such
 12 paragraph, the person requesting the headstone or marker
 13 may only request an emblem of belief for the headstone
 14 or marker if the person can provide sufficient evidence re-
 15 garding the religious beliefs of the decedent.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of section
 17 2306 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall apply
 18 with respect to a request for a headstone or marker sub-
 19 mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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