

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3715

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends.

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 “Final Farewell Act  
3 of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF INTERMENTS, FUNERALS, ME-**  
5 **MORIAL SERVICES, AND CEREMONIES AT NA-**  
6 **TIONAL CEMETERIES AND STATE CEME-**  
7 **TERIES RECEIVING GRANTS DURING WEEK-**  
8 **ENDS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL CEMETERIES.—Section 2404 of title  
10 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
11 the following new subsection:

12 “(i) The Secretary shall permit the interment or fu-  
13 neral, memorial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran  
14 at a national cemetery during weekends, other than Fed-  
15 eral holiday weekends, upon a request of the next-of-kin  
16 of the veteran.”.

17 (b) STATE CEMETERIES.—Section 2408(c) of such  
18 title is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
20 graph (3); and

21 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
22 lowing new paragraph (2):

23 “(2) In addition to the conditions specified in sub-  
24 section (b) and paragraph (1), any grant to a State under  
25 this section to assist such State in establishing a veterans’  
26 cemetery shall be made on the condition that such ceme-

1 tery shall permit the interment or funeral, memorial serv-  
2 ice, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at the cemetery  
3 during weekends, other than Federal holiday weekends,  
4 upon a request of the next-of-kin of the veteran.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6 this section shall apply with respect to deaths occurring  
7 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 (d) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—Upon receipt of a re-  
9 quest for an application for burial or interment in a na-  
10 tional cemetery, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
11 provide notice to the individual submitting the request of  
12 the opportunity to request the interment or funeral, me-  
13 morial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at a na-  
14 tional cemetery during weekends, other than Federal holi-  
15 day weekends, as authorized by subsection (i) of section  
16 2404 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
17 section (a).

Passed the House of Representatives May 23, 2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*