

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1179

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2017

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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 authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era, 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 “Hmong Veterans’
5 Service Recognition Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERMENT IN NATIONAL CEME-**
2 **TERIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2402(a) of title 38,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new paragraph:

6 “(10) Any individual—

7 “(A) who—

8 “(i) was naturalized pursuant to sec-
9 tion 2(1) of the Hmong Veterans’ Natu-
10 ralization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–
11 207; 8 U.S.C. 1423 note); and

12 “(ii) at the time of the individual’s
13 death resided in the United States; or

14 “(B) who—

15 “(i) the Secretary determines served
16 honorably with a special guerrilla unit or
17 irregular forces operating from a base in
18 Laos in support of the Armed Forces of
19 the United States at any time during the
20 period beginning February 28, 1961, and
21 ending May 7, 1975; and

22 “(ii) at the time of the individual’s
23 death—

24 “(I) was a citizen of the United
25 States or an alien lawfully admitted

1 for permanent residence in the United
2 States; and

3 “(II) resided in the United
4 States.”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
6 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an individual
7 dying on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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