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116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1126

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Honoring Veterans' Families Act''.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CERTAIN HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i)(1) In the case of an individual for whom the Secretary has furnished a headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of the individual in a non-VA cemetery under subsection (a) or for whom the Secretary has furnished a headstone or marker under subsection (d), the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, replace the headstone or marker to add an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.

''(2) If the spouse or eligible dependent child of an individual referred to in paragraph (1) predeceases the individual, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, include an inscription for the spouse or dependent child on the headstone or marker furnished for the individual under subsection (a) or (d).

''(3) In this section, the term 'non-VA cemetery' means—

''(A) a veterans' cemetery owned by a State; or

''(B) a State, local, tribal, or private cemetery.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (i) of section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an individual who dies on or after October 1, 2018.

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