

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY FOR VETERANS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 221, S. 695.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 695) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish, in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code, the following:

(1) A national cemetery in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(2) A national cemetery in Southwestern Pennsylvania to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(3) A national cemetery in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(b) *CONSULTATION IN SELECTION OF SITES.*—Before selecting the sites for the national cemeteries to be established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (1) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Georgia and appropriate officials of local governments in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area;

(2) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (2) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Pennsylvania and appropriate officials of local governments in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

(3) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (3) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Florida and appropriate officials of local governments in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area; and

(4) appropriate officials of the United States, including the Administrator of General Services, with respect to land belonging to the United States that would be suitable as a location for the establishment of each such national cemetery.

(c) *REPORT.*—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the establishment of the national cemeteries under subsection (a). The report shall set forth a schedule for the establishment of each such cemetery and an estimate of the costs associated with the establishment of each such cemetery.

AMENDMENT NO. 1562

Purpose: To require the establishment of a national cemetery in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area and in the Sacramento, California, metropolitan area, to authorize the use of flat grave markers at Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, and for other purposes)

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, Senators SPECTER and ROCKEFELLER have an amendment at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for Mr. SPECTER, for himself, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, proposes an amendment numbered 1562.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(4) A national cemetery in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(5) A national cemetery in the Sacramento, California, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

On page 4, strike lines 3 and 4 and insert the following:

Florida, metropolitan area;

(4) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (4) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Michigan and appropriate officials of local governments in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area;

(5) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (5) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of California and appropriate officials of local governments in the Sacramento, California, metropolitan area; and

(6) appropriate officials of the United States, in—

On page 4, after line 15, add the following:

**SEC. 2. USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS.**

(a) *AUTHORITY TO USE FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY.*—Notwithstanding section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide for flat grave markers at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico.

(b) *REPORT COMPARING USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AND UPRIGHT GRAVE MARKERS.*—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report assessing the advantages and disadvantages of the use by the National Cemetery Administration of flat grave markers and upright grave markers.

(2) The report under paragraph (1) shall set forth the advantages and disadvantages of the use of each type of grave marker referred to in that paragraph, and shall include criteria to be utilized in determining whether to prefer the use of one such type of grave marker over the other.

In the amendment to the title, strike “in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area” and all that follows through “metropolitan area” and insert the following: “in various locations in the United States, and for other purposes”.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1562) was agreed to.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 695), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 695

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

**SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish, in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code, the following:

(1) A national cemetery in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(2) A national cemetery in Southwestern Pennsylvania to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(3) A national cemetery in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(4) A national cemetery in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(5) A national cemetery in the Sacramento, California, metropolitan area to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

(b) *CONSULTATION IN SELECTION OF SITES.*—

Before selecting the sites for the national cemeteries to be established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (1) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Georgia and appropriate officials of local governments in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area;

(2) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (2) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Pennsylvania and appropriate officials of local governments in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

(3) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (3) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Florida and appropriate officials of local governments in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area;

(4) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (4) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of Michigan and appropriate officials of local governments in the Detroit, Michigan, metropolitan area;

(5) in the case of the national cemetery to be established under paragraph (5) of that subsection, appropriate officials of the State of California and appropriate officials of local governments in the Sacramento, California, metropolitan area; and

(6) appropriate officials of the United States, including the Administrator of General Services, with respect to land belonging to the United States that would be suitable as a location for the establishment of each such national cemetery.

(c) *REPORT.*—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the establishment of the national cemeteries under subsection (a). The report shall set forth a schedule for the establishment of each such cemetery and an estimate of the costs associated with the establishment of each such cemetery.

**SEC. 2. USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS.**

(a) *AUTHORITY TO USE FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY.*—Notwithstanding section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide for flat grave markers at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico.

(b) *REPORT COMPARING USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AND UPRIGHT GRAVE MARKERS.*—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees

on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report assessing the advantages and disadvantages of the use by the National Cemetery Administration of flat grave markers and upright grave markers.

(2) The report under paragraph (1) shall set forth the advantages and disadvantages of the use of each type of grave marker referred to in that paragraph, and shall include criteria to be utilized in determining whether to prefer the use of one such type of grave marker over the other.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans."

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to talk about the Senate passage of a bill I introduced that will extend the useful life of the Santa Fe National Cemetery in New Mexico. I also want to thank Senator SPECTER for his assistance that helped to make passage of this bill possible.

The men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces have made immeasurable sacrifices for the principles of freedom and liberty that make this Nation unique throughout civilization. The service of veterans has been vital to the history of the Nation, and the sacrifices made by veterans and their families should not be forgotten.

These veterans at the very least deserve every opportunity to be buried at a National Cemetery of their choosing. Unfortunately, projections show the Santa Fe National Cemetery will run out of space to provide casketed burials for our veterans at the conclusion of 2000. However, with Senate passage of this bill we have taken an important step to ensure the continued viability of the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

I believe all New Mexicans can be proud of the Santa Fe National Cemetery that has grown from 39/100 of an acre to its current 77 acres. The cemetery first opened in 1868 and within several years was designated a National Cemetery in April of 1875.

Men and women who have fought in all of our nation's wars hold an honored spot within the hallowed ground of the cemetery. Today the Santa Fe National Cemetery contains almost 27,000 graves that are mostly marked by upright headstones.

The Senate's action today brings us another step closer to ensuring the Santa Fe National Cemetery will not be forced to close. The bill passed

today allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the use of flat grave markers that will extend the useful life of the cemetery until 2008.

While I wish the practice of utilizing headstones could continue indefinitely if a veteran chose, my wishes are outweighed by my desire to extend the useful life of the cemetery. I would note that my desire is shared by the New Mexico Chapter of the American Legion, the Albuquerque Chapter of the Retired Officers' Association, and the New Mexico Chapter of the VFW who have all endorsed the use of flat grave markers.

Finally, this is not without precedent because exceptions to the law have been granted on six prior occasions with the most recent action occurring in 1994 when Congress authorized the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the flat grave markers at the Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon.

Mr. President, I again want to thank Senator SPECTER for his assistance and state how pleased I am with the Senate passage of this important bill.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate August 4, 1999:

### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

DAN HERMAN RENBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2003, VICE JULIE D. BELAGA, TERM EXPIRED.

### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

#### To be captain

DAVID M. BROWN, 0000  
ELWOOD W. HOPKINS, 0000  
MARTIN R. STAHL, 0000  
DAVID A. TAFT, 0000

#### To be commander

TOBIAS J. BACANER, 0000  
ALICA K. BARTLETT, 0000  
KEITH F. BATTIS, 0000  
RICHARD M. BERGER, 0000  
JOHN L. BERLOT, 0000  
GREGORY BLACKMAN, 0000  
LEWIS E. BROWN, 0000  
JACQUELYN L. CALBERT, 0000  
ARDEN CHAN, 0000  
CYRIL CHAVIS, 0000  
JIMMIE N. COLLINS, 0000  
LOUIS A. DAMIANO, 0000  
DOUGLAS C. DELLINGER, 0000  
JEROME V. DILLON, 0000  
JONATHAN E. DOMINGUEZ, 0000  
BRETT R. FINK, 0000  
ALAN P. GEGENHEIMER, 0000  
MARJORIE B. GWYNN, 0000  
LEROY T. JACKSON, 0000  
RICHARD A. JENSEN, 0000  
JOHN S. KELLOGG, 0000  
HAROLD LAROCHE, 0000  
RICHARD W. LOTH, 0000

DENNIS E. MAYER, 0000  
ROBERT P. MCCLANAHAN, JR., 0000  
KENNETH E. MILEY, 0000  
EDUARDO MORALES, 0000  
TODD J. MORRIS, 0000  
GREGORY F. PAIN, 0000  
MICHAEL A. PELINI, 0000  
LORING I. PERRY, 0000  
MICHAEL M. QUIGLEY, 0000  
TERRANCE R. REEVES, 0000  
PAUL V. ROCERETO, 0000  
PAULA J. SEXTON, 0000  
JOHN B. SHAPIRA, 0000  
STEVEN J. SHERIS, 0000  
JOSEPH B. SLAKAY, 0000  
JAMES T. STASIAK, 0000  
MICHAEL R. TORRICELLI, 0000  
ROBERT VALE, 0000

#### To be lieutenant commander

BILLY M. APPLETON, 0000  
LEE A. AXTELL, 0000  
BRUCE M. BICKNELL, 0000  
JAMES A. BISHOP, 0000  
MARC R. BOISVERT, 0000  
JAMES A. BURCH, 0000  
CHRISTINE Y. BUZIAK, 0000  
ROBERT A. CALLISON, 0000  
JOSEPH P. CARLOS, 0000  
EDWIN M. CARROLL, 0000  
PHILIP S. CHAPMAN, 0000  
CARLA S. CHERRY, 0000  
JOHN D. CHERRY, 0000  
PHILIP B. CREIDER, 0000  
PAUL B. CUNNINGHAM, 0000  
WILLIAM F. DAVIS, 0000  
CHRISTOPHER H. DELLOS, 0000  
JOHN D. DENTON, 0000  
CONSTANCE A. DORN, 0000  
DOUGLAS H. DOUGHTY, JR., 0000  
GREGORY D. DUNNE, 0000  
TIMOTHY R. EICHLER, 0000  
BRYAN K. FINCH, 0000  
PHILIP A. FOLLO, 0000  
TEHRAN FRAZIER, 0000  
MICHAEL J. FRIEL, 0000  
HARRY L. GANTEAU, 0000  
JEFFREY W. GILLETTE, 0000  
BRICE A. GOODWIN, 0000  
GRANT R. HIGHLAND, 0000  
ANDREW J. HILL, JR., 0000  
JASON V. HOFFMAN, 0000  
MICHAEL S. HOGG, 0000  
DONNA A. HULSE, 0000  
SCOTT L. JOHNSTON, 0000  
RONALD KAWCZYNSKI, 0000  
ANGELA M. KEITH, 0000  
TIMOTHY J. KOESTER, 0000  
RONALD G. LEAVER, 0000  
GUY M. LEE, 0000  
LARRY B. LESLIE, 0000  
STEVEN W. LIGLER, 0000  
LARRY L. LOOMIS, 0000  
MARK W. LOPEZ, 0000  
KAREN L. LOTTRIDGE, 0000  
ANDREW D. MCIRVIN, 0000  
MICHAEL A. MIKSTAY, 0000  
RANDALL B. MILLER, 0000  
JAMES L. MINTA, 0000  
REY R. MOLINA, 0000  
ISRAEL NARVAEZ, 0000  
ANDREW D. NELKO, 0000  
EDWARD C. NORTON, JR., 0000  
SCOTT E. ORGAN, 0000  
VIVIANA F. PALOMO, 0000  
ANTHONY V. POTTS, 0000  
ZITO D. PRINCE, 0000  
DAREN L. PURNELL, 0000  
JOHN A. RALPH, 0000  
KATHLEEN A. RAMSEY, 0000  
SHERIDAN A. RENOUE, 0000  
JEFFREY S. SCHMIDT, 0000  
THOMAS G. SEIDENWAND, 0000  
WESLEY B. SLOAT, 0000  
JOHN A. SWANSON, 0000  
KATHY TRAPPJACKSON, 0000  
STEVEN P. UNGER, 0000  
DAVID W. WARNER, 0000  
JACK H. WATERS, 0000  
BENJAMIN M. WEBB, 0000  
DALE C. WHITE, 0000  
ANDREW R. WILLIAMS, 0000  
DIANE M. WILSON, 0000  
PATRICIA A. WIRTH, 0000  
PAUL W. WITT, 0000