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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual’s cause of death, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual’s cause of death, 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 “Burn Pit Registry En-
5 hancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.**

7 (a) **INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions nec-
4 essary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be
5 updated with the cause of death of a deceased reg-
6 istered individual by—

7 (A) an individual designated by such de-
8 ceased registered individual; or

9 (B) if no such individual is designated, an
10 immediate family member of such deceased reg-
11 istered individual.

12 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall pro-
13 vide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process
14 by which a registered individual may make a des-
15 ignation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

16 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “burn pit registry” means the
18 registry established under section 201 of the Dig-
19 nified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improve-
20 ment Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C.
21 527 note).

22 (2) The term “immediate family member”, with
23 respect to a deceased individual, means—

24 (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or
25 adult child of the individual;

1 (B) an adult person to whom the indi-
2 vidual stands in loco parentis; or

3 (C) any other adult person—

4 (i) living in the household of the indi-
5 vidual at the time of the death of the indi-
6 vidual; and

7 (ii) related to the individual by blood
8 or marriage.

9 (3) The term “registered individual” means an
10 individual registered with the burn pit registry.