

[Committee Print]

**(Reflecting the actions of the Subcommittee on Disability
Assistance and Memorial Affairs on May 11, 2016)**

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4757

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries and to reserve in-ground burial plots at Arlington National Cemetery for such individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries and to reserve in-ground burial plots at Arlington National Cemetery for such individuals.

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. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEADSTONES,**
2 **MARKERS, AND MEDALLIONS FOR MEDAL OF**
3 **HONOR RECIPIENTS.**

4 Section 2306(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
6 graph:

7 “(5)(A) In carrying out this subsection with respect
8 to a deceased individual described in subparagraph (C),
9 the Secretary shall furnish, upon request, a headstone or
10 marker under paragraph (1) or a medallion under para-
11 graph (4) that signifies the deceased’s status as a Medal
12 of Honor recipient.

13 “(B) If the Secretary furnished a headstone, marker,
14 or medallion under paragraph (1) or (4) for a deceased
15 individual described in subparagraph (C) that does not
16 signify the deceased’s status as a Medal of Honor recipi-
17 ent, the Secretary shall, upon request, replace such head-
18 stone, marker, or medallion with a headstone, marker, or
19 medallion, as the case may be, that so signifies the
20 deceased’s status as a Medal of Honor recipient.

21 “(C) A deceased individual described in this subpara-
22 graph is a deceased individual who—

23 “(i) served in the Armed Forces on or after
24 April 6, 1917;

25 “(ii) is eligible for a headstone or marker fur-
26 nished under paragraph (1) or a medallion furnished

1 under paragraph (4) (or would be so eligible for
2 such headstone, marker, or medallion but for the
3 date of the death of the individual); and

4 “(iii) was awarded the Medal of Honor (includ-
5 ing posthumously).”.

6 **SEC. 2. BURIAL PLOTS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEME-**
7 **TERY FOR INDIVIDUALS AWARDED THE**
8 **MEDAL OF HONOR.**

9 (a) RESERVATION.—Of the number of in-ground bur-
10 ial plots available at Arlington National Cemetery as of
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
12 the Army shall reserve 100 such plots to inter deceased
13 individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

14 (b) TERMINATION.—The requirement under sub-
15 section (a) shall terminate on the date on which the Sec-
16 retary of the Army to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
17 and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of
18 Representatives and the Senate a report on the interment
19 and inurnment capacity of Arlington National Cemetery
20 that includes—

21 (1) the estimated date that the Secretary deter-
22 mines the cemetery will reach maximum interment
23 and inurnment capacity; and

24 (2) in light of the unique and iconic meaning of
25 the cemetery to the United States, recommendations

1 for legislative actions and nonlegislative options that
2 the Secretary determines necessary to ensure that
3 the maximum interment and inurnment capacity of
4 the cemetery is not reached until well into the fu-
5 ture, including such actions and options with respect
6 to—

7 (A) redefining eligibility criteria for inter-
8 ment and inurnment in the cemetery; and

9 (B) considerations for additional expansion
10 opportunities beyond the current boundaries of
11 the cemetery.