

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2701
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Servicemembers
3 Religious Heritage Restoration Act”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) An estimated 900 American-Jewish
7 servicemembers of the Armed Forces, killed in World
8 War I and World War II and buried overseas in
9 United States military cemeteries were, for various
10 reasons, mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses. In
11 most instances, those mistakes were made inadvert-
12 ently.

13 (2) In 2022, more than 2,000,000 people vis-
14 ited the United States World War I and World War
15 II cemeteries in foreign countries.

16 (3) American-Jewish servicemembers played a
17 vital role in the Allied victories in World War I and
18 World War II.

1 (4) American-Jewish servicemembers who
2 fought and died for the United States must have
3 their heritage properly recognized and honored.

4 (5) The United States Government has a sol-
5 emn responsibility to ensure that every American
6 servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is
7 properly honored.

8 (6) The work of properly identifying American-
9 Jewish servicemembers buried overseas is vital and
10 integral to the responsibility of the American Battle
11 Monuments Commission to ensure that past mis-
12 takes in honoring those servicemembers who died in
13 the line of duty are corrected.

14 **SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**
15 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The American Battle Monu-
17 ments Commission shall establish a program to identify
18 covered members and to contact survivors and descend-
19 ants of such covered members. Such program shall be
20 known as the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage
21 Restoration Program”.

22 (b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the
23 Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration
24 Program during the first five fiscal years that begin after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) CONTRACTS.—

2 (1) AUTHORITY.—During each fiscal year de-
3 scribed in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek
4 to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organiza-
5 tion under which such nonprofit organization shall
6 carry out the purpose described in subsection (a).

7 (2) TERM; AMOUNT.—Each contract under this
8 subsection shall be for one year and in the amount
9 of \$500,000 to the nonprofit organization.

10 (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under
11 this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to
12 a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated ca-
13 pability and expertise in carrying out the purpose
14 described in subsection (a).

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
16 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to
17 the Commission \$500,000 for each fiscal year described
18 in subsection (b).

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “covered member” means a de-
21 ceased member of the Armed Forces who was Jew-
22 ish and buried—

23 (A) in a United States military cemetery
24 located outside the United States; and

1 (B) under a marker that indicates such
2 member was not Jewish.

3 (2) The term “nonprofit organization” means
4 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
6 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

7 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
8 **PENSION.**

9 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
10 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
11 ing “January 31, 2032”.

