

**Statement for the Record in Support of H.R. 697  
The Honorable Jim Banks  
Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs**

**Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5639, H.R. 5487, H.R. 5048, H.R. 5019, H.R. 697, H.R. 6013,  
H.R. 6060, AND H.R. 7443**

**Thursday, July 16, 2020, 12:00 P.M.  
HVC 210**

*Madam Chairwoman, thank you for including my bill, H.R. 697, on today's schedule.*

*This straightforward legislation would allow the VA Secretary to transport claimed and unclaimed veterans remains to specified state or tribal cemeteries so that a grateful nation may honor their heroes one more time.*

*Currently, VA only covers the cost of transporting a veteran's remains to a national cemetery, but does not pay burial transportation costs to a state or tribal veterans cemetery.*

*By amending Title 38 to include state or tribal cemeteries that receive a VA Veterans Cemetery grant, my legislation would correct this inequity while also ensuring that remains are transported to cemeteries that follow VA standards and requirements.*

*I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 697.*