



June 20, 2025

Subject: Submission for the Record – H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act

Chairman Luttrell, Ranking Member McGarvey, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), I respectfully submit this letter for the record in support of H.R. 2701, the *Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act*.

An estimated 900 American-Jewish servicemembers who gave their lives during World War I and World War II and were buried in U.S. military cemeteries overseas were mistakenly interred under Latin Crosses—markers that do not reflect their religion or heritage. While these mistakes were largely inadvertent, they obscure the identity and legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

American-Jewish servicemembers served with distinction and bravery, playing a vital role in securing Allied victory. They deserve to be remembered with both dignity and accuracy. The United States has a solemn responsibility to ensure that every fallen servicemember is properly honored—not only through ceremony, but through truth.

The *Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act* directs the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a dedicated program to identify Jewish servicemembers who were buried under grave markers that do not reflect their faith and to engage their descendants. This is a long-overdue and deeply meaningful effort to correct the historical record and ensure our fallen heroes are remembered as they lived and served.

This bipartisan legislation reflects a shared commitment to honoring the legacy of all who served. We are proud to join a broad and diverse coalition—including the Jewish War Veterans, Gold Star Spouses of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and others—in supporting this important measure.

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We are grateful to Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Rep. Max Miller (R-OH) for their leadership, and we urge swift passage of H.R. 2701 so that we may begin the long-overdue process of properly honoring these brave Americans.

Sincerely,

Omer Oppenheim

Director, Government Relations, Jewish Federations of North America

