

**TESTIMONY OF JONAH PLATT BEFORE THE DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2701, THE “*FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS
RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT*”**

JUNE 24, 2025

Chairman Luttrell and Ranking Member McGarvey, as the host of Being Jewish and someone who works every day to tell Jewish stories and elevate Jewish voices, I’m deeply proud to support H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act.

This bill represents a necessary and long-overdue correction to a painful historical oversight: the mistaken burial of hundreds of Jewish American soldiers under Latin crosses rather than the Star of David. These men gave their lives for a country they loved, while living their lives as Jews. Honoring them accurately isn’t just about symbols—it’s about truth, respect, and belonging.

I haven’t had the chance to attend an Operation Benjamin rededication ceremony in person, but I’ve followed their work closely and spoken with those who’ve witnessed the impact up close. The stories are powerful. The families are moved.

The message is clear: these soldiers deserve to be remembered for who they were, and the country they served owes them that.

In our current moment of rising Jew hatred and cultural amnesia, recognizing Jewish contributions to the American story matters more than ever. H.R. 2701 offers a simple but powerful way to reclaim our place in that story—and to do right by those who came before us.

I strongly urge Congress to pass this legislation and give these heroes the legacy they have earned.

###

Jonah Platt
Host, Being Jewish Podcast
Los Angeles, CA
JonahPla@gmail.com