

**PERSONAL STATEMENT OF IDDO GOLDBERG 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 an Israeli and an actor who has had the privilege of portraying complex characters in stories of war, identity, and resilience, I know the power of how we remember. The stories we choose to tell—and how we choose to tell them—shape our understanding of the past and our values in the present. That’s why I strongly support H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act.

This bill corrects a quiet injustice: the burial of Jewish American soldiers under Latin crosses in overseas U.S. military cemeteries, rather than under the Star of David. These were Jewish men who served and died for their country. Their graves should reflect that truth, clearly and proudly.

Operation Benjamin’s work to restore these headstones has been deeply moving and profoundly necessary. Their efforts give dignity back to those who can no longer speak for themselves. But this shouldn’t fall solely on a nonprofit. It’s time for our governments to step up—to ensure that these fallen heroes are honored for who they truly were.

As someone who tells stories for a living, I believe this story matters. And it must be told accurately. These headstones are more than markers—they are symbols of identity, belonging, and respect.

I urge Congress to pass H.R. 2701. In doing so, we affirm that the memory of our Jewish heroes will endure, truthfully and honorably.

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