

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2051

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist in the identification of unclaimed and abandoned human remains to determine if any such remains are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist in the identification of unclaimed and abandoned human remains to determine if any such remains are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Missing in  
5 America Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 Congress recognizes the tireless work and dedication  
8 of the members of the Missing in America Project, in con-

1 junction with numerous veterans service organizations, in  
2 identifying the unclaimed remains of veterans.

3 **SEC. 3. IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED AND ABANDONED**  
4 **HUMAN REMAINS.**

5 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED  
6 HUMAN REMAINS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
7 shall cooperate with veterans service organizations to as-  
8 sist entities in possession of unclaimed or abandoned  
9 human remains in determining if any such remains are  
10 the remains of veterans or other individuals eligible for  
11 burial in a national cemetery.

12 (b) BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN  
13 REMAINS.—If the Secretary determines that any un-  
14 claimed or abandoned human remains are the remains of  
15 a person who is eligible for burial in an open national cem-  
16 etery under the control of the National Cemetery Adminis-  
17 tration under section 2402 of title 38, United States Code,  
18 the Secretary shall provide for the burial of the remains  
19 and cover the cost of the burial of the remains and the  
20 cost of preparing the remains and transporting them to  
21 the place of burial, if the Secretary determines, with re-  
22 spect to the remains—

23 (1) that there is no next of kin or other person  
24 claiming the remains; and

1           (2) that there are not available other sufficient  
2 resources to cover burial and funeral expenses.

3           (c) CREATION OF NATIONAL DATABASE.—The Sec-  
4 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a database in  
5 which the Secretary shall enter the names of any veteran  
6 or other individual identified pursuant to subsection (a).  
7 The Secretary shall ensure that the database is publicly  
8 accessible.

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