

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10301

To require the Secretary of the Army to accelerate actions necessary to carry out caisson services at Arlington National Cemetery.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Mr. BUCHANAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Army to accelerate actions necessary to carry out caisson services at Arlington National Cemetery.

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 “The Honoring Our
5 Heroes with Dignity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAN FOR PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY WORKING**
2 **EQUIDS FOR THE CAISSON PLATOON OF THE**
3 **3RD INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE ARMY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
6 Army shall submit to Congress a detailed plan for the pro-
7 curement of military working equids for the Caisson Pla-
8 toon of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Army.

9 (b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required
10 by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall consult
11 with—

12 (1) the Mounted Color Guard of the Marine
13 Corps;

14 (2) the Navy, the Air Force, the Space Force,
15 and the Coast Guard; and

16 (3) at least two nationally recognized equid or-
17 ganizations, foundations, or councils.

18 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO BEGIN CONDUCTING FUNERALS**
19 **WITH CAISSON SERVICES AT ARLINGTON NA-**
20 **TIONAL CEMETERY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
23 Army shall—

24 (1) begin conducting at least two funerals with
25 caisson services each week, or a total of four services

1 in a two week period, at Arlington National Ceme-
2 tery, Virginia; or

3 (2) enter into a contract with a nongovern-
4 mental entity described in subsection (b).

5 (b) CONTRACT DESCRIBED.—The contract described
6 in this subsection shall—

7 (1) require that the nongovernmental entity—

8 (A) begin providing services under the con-
9 tract not later than 60 days after the date of
10 the enactment of this Act;

11 (B) provide the military working equids
12 necessary to conduct caisson services for at
13 least one funeral each business day, other than
14 Federal holidays, at Arlington National Ceme-
15 tery, until the funerals backlogged at such cem-
16 etery as of the date of the enactment of this
17 Act are conducted; and

18 (C) after the backlogged funerals described
19 in subparagraph (B) are conducted, to continue
20 to provide services to meet the requirement of
21 caisson services for funerals until the Army is
22 capable of conducting at least one funeral with
23 caisson services each business day;

24 (2) specify that Army uniformed soldiers and
25 not contract personnel will participate by riding the

1 military working equids in the funeral ceremonies;
2 and

3 (3) terminate when the Caisson Platoon of the
4 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Army begins con-
5 ducting at least one funeral with caisson services
6 each business day.

7 **SEC. 4. MONTHLY REPORT ON FUNERALS AT ARLINGTON**
8 **NATIONAL CEMETERY ON HOLD UNTIL CAIS-**
9 **SON SERVICES RESUME.**

10 Section 7721 of title 10, United States Code, is
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(f) MONTHLY REPORT ON CAISSON SERVICES.—
14 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment
15 of this subsection, and not less frequently than once every
16 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall submit
17 to the congressional defense committees a report on the
18 number of families that have requested caisson services
19 at Arlington National Cemetery and are waiting to hold
20 funerals until caisson services resume.”.

21 **SEC. 5. LAND FOR OPERATIONS AND TRAINING OF CAISSON**
22 **PLATOON OF THE 3RD INFANTRY REGIMENT**
23 **OF THE ARMY.**

24 Section 366 of the National Defense Authorization
25 Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat.

1 234; 10 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by adding at the
2 end the following new subsection:

3 “(d) LAND FOR OPERATIONS AND TRAINING.—In ac-
4 quiring the land necessary for the operations and training
5 of the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of
6 the Army, the Secretary of the Army shall consider land
7 in West Virginia and Virginia.”.

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