

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 208

Calling on the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans reasonable access to burial in national cemeteries.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 1999

Ms. BROWN of Florida (for herself and Mr. EVANS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Calling on the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans reasonable access to burial in national cemeteries.

Whereas in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation authorizing the purchase of “cemetery grounds” to be used as national cemeteries “for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country”;

Whereas the United States has made a solemn commitment to provide an appropriate final resting place for those who have honorably served this Nation in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the stated goal of the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs is to as-

sure that the burial needs of veterans are met in a manner that commemorates their service to our Nation;

Whereas nearly one third of United States veterans currently do not have the option of being buried in a national cemetery or State veterans cemetery located within a reasonable distance of their residence—such distance being 75 miles, as determined by the National Cemetery Administration;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration, in its fiscal year 2000 performance plan, established a program objective that provides only 80 percent of United States veterans with a burial option within a reasonable distance of their residence;

Whereas a National Cemetery Administration goal which does not provide 20 percent of United States veterans with a burial option within a reasonable distance of their residence is not acceptable;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration expects the demand for cemetery space for veterans in national cemeteries will increase sharply in the near future, with burials increasing 42 percent from 1995 to 2010, and annual veteran deaths reaching the amount of 620,000 in 2008; and

Whereas the proposed fiscal year 2000 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs failed to include a request for any funding for the planning of any new national cemeteries: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) reaffirms the commitment of the United
- 3       States to the men and women who have honorably

1 served this Nation in the Armed Forces to provide  
2 reasonable access to burial in a national cemetery or  
3 State veterans cemetery; and

4 (2) calls on the National Cemetery Administra-  
5 tion of the Department of Veterans Affairs, vested  
6 with the responsibility of providing a final resting  
7 place for America's heroes, to commence without  
8 delay the planning for the construction of new na-  
9 tional cemeteries and other activities to provide  
10 America's veterans reasonable access to burial in a  
11 national cemetery or State veterans cemetery.

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