

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1454

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2007

Ms. MIKULSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, 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 Burial Bene-
5 fits Improvement Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN BURIAL AND FUNERAL BENEFITS FOR**
7 **VETERANS.**

8 (a) INCREASE IN BURIAL AND FUNERAL EXPENSES
9 AND PROVISION FOR ANNUAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-
10 MENT.—

1 (1) EXPENSES GENERALLY.—Section 2302(a)
 2 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-
 3 ing “\$300” and inserting “\$1,270 (as increased
 4 from time to time under section 2309 of this title)”.

5 (2) EXPENSES FOR DEATHS IN DEPARTMENT
 6 FACILITIES.—Section 2303(a)(1)(A) of such title is
 7 amended by striking “\$300” and inserting “\$1,270
 8 (as increased from time to time under section 2309
 9 of this title)”.

10 (3) EXPENSES FOR DEATHS FROM SERVICE-
 11 CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 2307 of such
 12 title is amended by striking “\$2,000,” and inserting
 13 “\$4,100 (as increased from time to time under sec-
 14 tion 2309 of this title)”.

15 (b) PLOT ALLOWANCE.—Section 2303(b) of such
 16 title is amended—

17 (1) by striking “\$300” the first place it appears
 18 and inserting “\$745 (as increased from time to time
 19 under section 2309 of this title)”; and

20 (2) by striking “\$300” the second place it ap-
 21 pears and inserting “\$745 (as so increased)”.

22 (c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 23 of such title is
 24 amended by adding at the end the following new sec-
 25 tion:

1 **“§ 2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial ben-**
 2 **efits**

3 “With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall
 4 provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dol-
 5 lar) in the burial and funeral expenses under sections
 6 2302(a), 2303(a), and 2307 of this title, and in the plot
 7 allowance under section 2303(b) of this title, equal to the
 8 percentage by which—

9 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
 10 United States city average) for the 12-month period
 11 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
 12 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
 13 ceeds

14 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
 15 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
 16 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 18 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 19 by adding at the end the following new item:

“2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial benefits.”.

20 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 22 graph (2), the amendments made by this section
 23 shall apply to deaths occurring on or after the date
 24 of the enactment of this Act.

1 (2) PROHIBITION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-
2 MENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—No adjustments
3 shall be made under section 2309 of title 38, United
4 States Code, as added by subsection (c), for fiscal
5 year 2008.

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