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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a centralized portal within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the storage of information with respect to the unclaimed remains of veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VALADAO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a centralized portal within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the storage of information with respect to the unclaimed remains of 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 “Locating Our Un-
5 claimed Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SYSTEM FOR**
2 **STORAGE OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT**
3 **TO UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS.**

4 (a) PROCESS FOR STORAGE AND EVALUATION OF
5 UNCLAIMED REMAINS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary of Vet-
8 erans Affairs for Benefits, shall establish in the De-
9 partment of Veterans Affairs a centralized system to
10 store information with respect to the unclaimed re-
11 mains of veterans. Such system shall include—

12 (A) information with respect to unclaimed
13 human remains suspected to be the remains of
14 a veteran transmitted to the Department
15 from—

- 16 (i) coroners;
17 (ii) State governments; and
18 (iii) funeral homes; and

19 (B) with respect to unclaimed remains of
20 a veteran in the possession of the Secretary—

- 21 (i) the name of the veteran, if avail-
22 able;
23 (ii) fingerprints of the veteran, if
24 available;
25 (iii) the estimated age of the veteran
26 at death, if determinable; and

1 (iv) such identifiers as the Secretary
2 determines necessary to make reasonable
3 efforts to confirm veteran status of such
4 unclaimed remains and identify suitable
5 next-of-kin, to the extent practicable.

6 (2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

7 (A) EXISTING MEMORANDA.—In devel-
8 oping the system required under subsection (a),
9 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, pursu-
10 ant to applicable memoranda of understanding
11 with respect to data sharing in effect as of the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, request such
13 other information from the following Federal
14 agencies as the Secretary determines relevant to
15 efforts to identify unclaimed remains of vet-
16 erans:

17 (i) The Social Security Administra-
18 tion.

19 (ii) The Federal Bureau of Investiga-
20 tion.

21 (iii) The Department of Defense.

22 (B) SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDA.—The
23 Secretary may seek to enter into such memo-
24 randa of understanding with the heads of Fed-
25 eral agencies, or seek to modify the memoranda

1 of understanding described in subparagraph
2 (A), as the Secretary determines necessary for
3 identifying whether unclaimed remains in the
4 possession of the Secretary are the remains of
5 a veteran.

6 (C) CONSIDERATION.—In making a re-
7 quest for information from the Federal Bureau
8 of Investigation pursuant to a memorandum of
9 understanding described in subparagraph (A)
10 or (B), the Secretary shall consider information
11 collected and maintained under the National
12 Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

13 (b) TERMINATION DATE.—This section shall expire
14 on the last day of the third fiscal year beginning after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis there-
18 after for three years, the Secretary shall submit to the
19 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Senate a report on the system re-
21 quired under subsection (a) that includes—

22 (1) a summary of the implementation of such
23 system;

24 (2) a description of outreach activities carried
25 out pursuant to such implementation; and

1 (3) the total number of unclaimed remains of
2 veterans successfully identified using such system
3 during the period covered by the report.