

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4787

To establish a flower ordering program for gravesites under the purview
of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2024

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish a flower ordering program for gravesites under
the purview of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

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 “Flowers for Fallen He-
5 roes Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS**

7 **COMMISSION AUTHORITIES.**

8 Section 2103 of title 36, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking the
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) not later than 1 year after the date of the
7 enactment of the Flowers for Fallen Heroes Act of
8 2024, establish a modern and secure program and
9 payment system for members of the public to order
10 floral arrangements for gravesites under the Com-
11 mission’s purview, without excess administrative fees
12 or markup.”;

13 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “, marketing
14 professionals,” after “architects”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(1) AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION TO ACCEPT CER-
17 TAIN TYPES OF PAYMENTS.—

18 “(1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAY-
19 MENTS AND ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
21 accept payment of fees related to activities de-
22 scribed in subsection (a)(6) by credit card or
23 electronic funds transfer.

24 “(B) USE OF VENDORS AND THIRD-PARTY
25 PROVIDERS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission
2 may contract with third-party providers,
3 including insured depository institutions
4 and card issuers (as such terms are de-
5 fined in the Truth in Lending Act), for
6 purposes of accepting payments by credit
7 card or by electronic funds transfer mak-
8 ing every effort to find the best value third
9 party vendor.

10 “(ii) PAYMENT OF FEES.—If a third-
11 party vendor with which the Commission
12 contracts requires a fee in connection with
13 the processing of credit payments or elec-
14 tronic funds transfers, the person who is
15 making such payment or transfer shall pay
16 such fee, not the Commission.

17 “(C) COMPLETION OF PAYMENT.—If a
18 person elects to make a payment to the Com-
19 mission by a method authorized under subpara-
20 graph (A), the payment shall not be deemed to
21 be made until the Commission receives the
22 funds.

23 “(2) LIABILITY FOR NONPAYMENT.—If a pay-
24 ment by credit card, debit card, or charge card, so
25 received is not duly paid, or is paid and subsequently

1 charged back to the Commission, the person by
 2 whom such method of payment has been tendered
 3 shall remain liable for the payment, to the same ex-
 4 tent as if such method of payment had not been ten-
 5 dered.

6 “(3) ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER DE-
 7 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘electronic funds
 8 transfer’—

9 “(A) means a transfer of funds, other than
 10 a transaction by check, draft, or similar paper
 11 instrument, that is initiated through an elec-
 12 tronic terminal, personal device, or computer
 13 for the purpose of ordering, instructing, or au-
 14 thorizing a financial institution to debit or cred-
 15 it an account; and

16 “(B) includes point of sale transfers, auto-
 17 mated teller machine transfers, direct deposit or
 18 withdrawal of funds, transfers initiated by per-
 19 sonal device, and transfers resulting from debit
 20 card transactions.

21 “(m) CREDITING OF FUNDS.—Any fees or reim-
 22 bursements received by the Commission for services pro-
 23 vided under this section shall be credited to the appropria-
 24 tion or fund used for paying the service costs and shall
 25 remain available for obligation until expended.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ADHERENCE**
2 **TO CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.**

3 (a) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
4 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annu-
5 ally thereafter, the American Battle Monuments Commis-
6 sion (referred to in this section as the “Commission”)
7 shall submit a report on implementation and performance
8 related to the amendments made by this Act to—

9 (1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the
10 Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans
11 Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on
12 Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

13 (2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the
14 Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans
15 Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on
16 Appropriations of the Senate.

17 (b) CONTENTS OF ANNUAL REPORT.—Each report
18 to Congress required under subsection (a) shall include
19 progress summaries of activities related to—

20 (1) section 2103(a)(6) of title 36, United States
21 Code, including—

22 (A) data on flower orders;

23 (B) the Commission’s active management
24 of a flower program including receiving and
25 processing the order, placing the floral tribute,
26 providing via email a digital photo of the deco-

1 rated gravesite to the requestor, and status of
2 ordering systems;

3 (C) efforts to ensure easy, cost-effective ac-
4 cess for members of the public who would like
5 to participate in the flower program;

6 (D) creative marketing of the flower pro-
7 gram to include public service advertising and
8 public-private partnerships; and

9 (E) the vetting process for florists involved
10 with the flower program; and

11 (2) promotion of the Commission's activities
12 pursuant to section 2102(a) of title 36, United
13 States Code.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
16 mission such sums as necessary, as determined by the
17 Commission, to provide the services described in section
18 2103(a)(6) of title 36, United States Code.

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