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| March 1, 2018 | 202-224-6244 |

**Senate Unanimously Passes Three Heller Bills to Address Veterans’ Burial Needs**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. –** Today, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed three pieces of legislation that U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), a senior member of the U.S. Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, either authored or helped introduce to address veterans’ burial needs.

In January, Heller joined ranking member Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)in introducing a [bipartisan bill that ensures veterans can be respectfully laid to rest alongside their spouses and children](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=8746B1E3-9063-4094-8229-D3A97CAB74D5). This legislation, S. 2248, was among the proposals the U.S. Senate approved today.

“A veteran’s final resting place is hallowed ground as it serves as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have defended our country. That’s why I continue to fight for burial policies that rightfully honor and pay tribute to these brave men and women,” **said Heller.** “As a strong supporter of ensuring veterans and their families can access the benefits and care they’ve earned, I’m proud to work with my colleagues on these bills to ensure both our nation’s heroes and their loved ones receive the honorable burial that they deserve. I look forward to pushing all three proposals over the finish line and into law.”

In addition to S.2248, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved the House companion to S.2247, a proposal Heller authored to extend eligibility for headstones and markers to all beneficiaries at state and national veterans’ cemeteries who passed away after 1998. The bill, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, now goes to the President’s desk for his signature.

**Background:**

1. **S. 2248 –** [Heller and Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced this proposal](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=8746B1E3-9063-4094-8229-D3A97CAB74D5). The bill authorizes the VA to provide a headstone upon request for the graves of spouses, surviving spouses, and dependent children of veterans who are interred in a tribal veterans’ cemetery.

1. **S. 2247 –** Heller introduced this bill with Senator Tester, and the House companion (H.R.3656) passed the Senate unanimously today. The measureextends eligibility for headstones and markers to all beneficiaries at state and national veterans’ cemeteries who passed away after 1998.

1. **S. 2372 (Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act) –** Heller is an original cosponsor of this proposal. This legislation directs the National Park Service to provide grave liners in their national cemeteries in the same way VA provides them.

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