

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2248

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2017

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. UDALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, 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. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF**  
4 **VETERANS BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES**  
5 **FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
6 **AFFAIRS BURIAL BENEFITS.**

7 Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is  
8 amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “or a vet-  
2           erans’ cemetery owned by a tribal organization or on  
3           land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organiza-  
4           tion” after “State”;

5           (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “, a vet-  
6           erans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on land  
7           owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization”  
8           after “owned by a State”;

9           (3) in subsection (f)—

10           (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and  
11           (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

12           (B) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
13           serting “(1) The Secretary”;

14           (C) by striking “a national cemetery or in  
15           a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organi-  
16           zation for which the Department has provided  
17           a grant under section 2408 of this title” and in-  
18           serting “a covered cemetery”; and

19           (D) by adding at the end the following:

20           “(2) The term ‘covered cemetery’ means any of the  
21           following:

22           “(A) A national cemetery.

23           “(B) A veterans’ cemetery of a State for which  
24           the Department has provided a grant under section  
25           2408 of this title.

1           “(C) A veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organiza-  
2           tion or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal  
3           organization for which the Department has provided  
4           a grant under subsection (f) of such section.”; and

5           (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
6           section:

7           “(i) In this section, the term ‘tribal organization’ has  
8           the meaning given such term in section 3765 of this  
9           title.”.

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