

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Frank A. Moran

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions In Recognition of the efforts of all who seek to place grave markers on the graves of Soldiers giving the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States of America and the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>7/30/2015</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Moran of Lawrence, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Frank A. Moran for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to place grave markers on the graves of Soldiers giving the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States of America and the Commonwealth. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

Resolutions In Recognition of the efforts of all who seek to place grave markers on the graves of Soldiers giving the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States of America and the Commonwealth.

1 In Recognition of

2 The efforts of all who seek to place grave markers on the graves of Soldiers giving the
3 ultimate sacrifice in service to the United State of America and the Commonwealth as follows:

4 Whereas: Many deceased military members are buried in the Immaculate Conception
5 Cemetery in Lawrence and other locations in the Merrimack Valley, the Commonwealth of
6 Massachusetts and throughout the United States without any identification of their graves to
7 memorialize the honor and circumstance of their military service or even to know who is buried
8 in the grave; and

9 Whereas: Those lawfully permitted to apply to the “Department of Veteran’s Affairs” to
10 provide and place grave markers on the graves of deceased Veterans included family members
11 who were “next of kin” of the deceased, a person authorized in writing by the “next of kin” and

12 Cemetery Superintendents until revision of the authority of Cemetery Superintendents from the
13 application;

14 Whereas: Although the purpose of the amended Federal Regulation is to avoid and
15 prevent the possibility that a person lacking a familial relationship to the deceased Veteran from
16 altering the Veteran’s gravesite in a manner not consistent with the intentions of the Veteran’s
17 Family;

18 Whereas: Despite the “good intentions” of the new regulation, Veteran’s groups and
19 Cemetery Superintendents agree that the new regulation fails to make any reasonable provision
20 to submit an application for headstones or grave markers for Veterans who may no longer have
21 “next of kin” alive or available to meet the strictly applied application standards which fail to
22 recognize circumstances of time, war, illness and other service associated causes result in the
23 inability to obtain headstones and grave markers for deceased Veterans entitled to be recognized
24 and honored in this way;

25 Whereas: It is hereby recognized that the new application process put into effect in 2009
26 actually hinders, obstructs and denies the availability of headstones and grave markers to
27 deceased Veterans buried in Our Community and as a result, fails to provide honor and dignity to
28 deceased Veterans, their Families and the Lawrence Community who cannot obtain headstones
29 and grave markers because of the new application standards;

30 Therefore, be it resolved, that the Massachusetts House of Representatives hereby
31 recognize, support and join the efforts of Chapter 2 of the Disabled American Veterans,
32 Cemetery Superintendents and all who seek to compel the amendment of the current Federal
33 Regulation through legislation that will facilitate and increase the availability of headstones and

34 grave markers under usual and special circumstances in order to appropriately honor and
35 memorialize deceased Veterans of this and all Communities hereby set our hands and cause the
36 Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be affixed this the 6th day of August, in the year
37 Two Thousand and Fifteen.

38 Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the clerk of the House of
39 Representatives to our Representatives in Congress.