

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5054

To ensure that United States Government personnel, including members of the Armed Forces and contractors, assigned to United States diplomatic missions are given the opportunity to designate next-of-kin for certain purposes in the event of the death of the personnel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DEFAZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To ensure that United States Government personnel, including members of the Armed Forces and contractors, assigned to United States diplomatic missions are given the opportunity to designate next-of-kin for certain purposes in the event of the death of the personnel.

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 “US Navy SEAL SCPO
5 Tyrone Snowden Woods Ceremony Invitee Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. INVITATION OF DESIGNATED NEXT-OF-KIN TO**
2 **CEREMONIES HONORING UNITED STATES**
3 **DIPLOMATIC MISSION PERSONNEL WHO DIE**
4 **IN SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) DIPLOMATIC MISSION.—The term “diplo-
7 matic mission” means any United States diplomatic
8 or consular post or other mission under the jurisdic-
9 tion of the Secretary of State.

10 (2) MEMBER.—The term “member of a diplo-
11 matic mission” means any Government official or
12 employee, any member of the Armed Forces, or any
13 United States citizen employed as a contractor, who
14 is serving at, or is notified of imminent assignment
15 to, a diplomatic mission.

16 (3) MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The term “memorial
17 service” means an official event sponsored or held by
18 a Federal agency to which members of the public are
19 invited to honor the life of a member of a diplomatic
20 mission who died in service to the United States.

21 (4) NEXT-OF-KIN.—The term “next-of-kin”,
22 with respect to a deceased member of a diplomatic
23 mission, means the following individuals:

24 (A) The surviving spouse of the deceased
25 member.

1 (B) The child or children of the deceased
2 member (including stepchildren, adopted chil-
3 dren, and illegitimate children).

4 (C) The parent or parents of the deceased
5 member (including a natural parent, a step-
6 parent, a parent of the member by adoption, a
7 parent, stepparent, or adopted parent of the
8 surviving spouse, and any other person who has
9 stood in loco parentis to the member at any
10 time for a continuous period of at least five
11 years before the member became 21 years of
12 age).

13 (D) The sibling or siblings of the deceased
14 member (including stepsiblings and siblings by
15 adoption).

16 (E) The person authorized to direct the
17 disposition of the remains of the deceased mem-
18 ber.

19 (b) POLICY FOR DESIGNATION OF NEXT-OF-KIN.—
20 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
21 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

22 (1) prescribe a policy by which a member of a
23 diplomatic mission may designate those next-of-kin
24 who will be invited to, and be entitled to attend, any
25 memorial service held to honor the life of the mem-

1 ber of a diplomatic mission in the event of the death
2 of the member in service to the United States;

3 (2) publicize the existence of the policy to each
4 member of a diplomatic mission; and

5 (3) make forms reasonably available to each
6 member of a diplomatic mission by which the des-
7 ignation of such next-of-kin may be made.

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall
9 carry out this section in consultation with the Secretary
10 of Defense, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agen-
11 cy, and the head of any other Federal agency that assign
12 persons to serve as a member of a diplomatic mission.

13 (d) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO MAKE DESIGNATION.—
14 If a member of a diplomatic mission fails to complete the
15 form described in subsection (b)(3) before the death of the
16 member, the member shall be deemed to have designated
17 all next-of-kin of the member for invitation to any memo-
18 rial service held to honor the life of the member in the
19 event of the death of the member in service to the United
20 States.

21 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion or the policy required by this section may be con-
23 strued to authorized a private cause of action or legal

1 claim against the United States Government, a Depart-
2 ment or agency thereof, or any private individual.

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