

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 691

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2009

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region, 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. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY IN**
4 **SOUTHERN COLORADO REGION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall establish, in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38,
7 United States Code, a national cemetery in El Paso Coun-
8 ty, Colorado, to serve the needs of veterans and their fami-
9 lies in the southern Colorado region.

1 (b) CONSULTATION IN SELECTION OF SITE.—Before
2 selecting the site for the national cemetery established
3 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

4 (1) appropriate officials of the State of Colo-
5 rado and local officials in the southern Colorado re-
6 gion; and

7 (2) appropriate officials of the United States,
8 including the Administrator of General Services,
9 with respect to land belonging to the United States
10 in El Paso County, Colorado, that would be suitable
11 to establish the national cemetery under subsection
12 (a).

13 (c) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATION OF PARCEL
14 OF LAND.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
16 Affairs may accept on behalf of the United States
17 the gift of an appropriate parcel of real property.
18 The Secretary shall have administrative jurisdiction
19 over such parcel of real property, and shall use such
20 parcel to establish the national cemetery under sub-
21 section (a).

22 (2) INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF GIFT.—For
23 purposes of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes,
24 the real property accepted under paragraph (1) shall
25 be considered as a gift to the United States.

1 (d) REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
3 to Congress a report on the establishment of the national
4 cemetery under subsection (a). The report shall set forth
5 a schedule for such establishment and an estimate of the
6 costs associated with such establishment.

7 (e) SOUTHERN COLORADO REGION DEFINED.—In
8 this Act, the term “southern Colorado region” means the
9 geographic region consisting of the following Colorado
10 counties:

- 11 (1) El Paso.
- 12 (2) Pueblo.
- 13 (3) Teller.
- 14 (4) Fremont.
- 15 (5) Las Animas.
- 16 (6) Huerfano.
- 17 (7) Custer.
- 18 (8) Costilla.
- 19 (9) Alamosa.
- 20 (10) Saguache.
- 21 (11) Conejos.
- 22 (12) Mineral.
- 23 (13) Archuleta.
- 24 (14) Hinsdale.
- 25 (15) Gunnison.

- 1 (16) Pitkin.
- 2 (17) La Plata.
- 3 (18) Montezuma.
- 4 (19) San Juan.
- 5 (20) Ouray.
- 6 (21) San Miguel.
- 7 (22) Dolores.
- 8 (23) Montrose.
- 9 (24) Delta.
- 10 (25) Mesa.
- 11 (26) Crowley.
- 12 (27) Kiowa.
- 13 (28) Bent.
- 14 (29) Baca.

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