



Air Force Association

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An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

Michael M. Dunn
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

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Senator Olympia Snowe
SR-154 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

The Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 120,000 current and former Airmen and their families, is writing to express support for S.815, the Sanctity of Eternal Rest for Veterans Act.

While desiring to respect the First Amendment Rights of all citizens, the AFA believes our nation could further ensure some sanctity and peace for the families and loved ones of our military members killed in action. This bill protects mourning friends and family members of our nations wounded from having to deal with protesters when they lay their loved ones to rest.

The Sanctity of Eternal Rest for Veterans (SERVE) Act will help to keep protesters from disrupting funerals and will impose penalties on violators.

The SERVE Act will:

1. Increase the "quiet time," the time when no protesting is allowed before and after funeral services, from 30 minutes to 120 minutes.
2. Increase the distance from funeral-goers, within which protests are prohibited, from 150 feet to 300 feet.
3. Impose criminal penalties (2 years in jail; \$250,000 fine) on violators.
4. Allow immediate family members and the United States Attorney General each to sue violators for monetary damages between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

We strongly support efforts by Congress to ensure the most respectful funeral services possible for those who are mourning the unspeakable loss of losing someone who was fighting for this nation. Thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Dunn
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO