National Funeral Directors Association
Informs Educates Advocates

2011 POLICY

IMPROVE FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

NFDA Position

That NFDA support any and all legislation that would enhance, improve and increase the funeral and burial benefits for veterans and their families.

Background

Currently, there are numerous funeral and burial benefits available to veterans and their families including burial in national cemeteries, headstones and markers, memorial plots and presidential certificates, burial flags, reimbursement of burial expenses, life insurance and related benefits. However, most are inadequate and fail to recognize the current costs and expenses related to funeral services and burials.

Discussion

NFDA has long supported improving the funeral and burial benefits available to veterans and their families. In that regard, several bills were passed in the 109th Congress that supported those objectives. NFDA strongly supported all of them. In the 110th and the 111th Congress, NFDA testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee and submitted written comments in support a variety of bills to enhance and improved funeral and death benefits for veterans and their families. As a result of our advocacy efforts and those of the VSO's, we were successful in passing and having signed into law, the "Veterans Benefit Act of 2010". The law greatly improved the insurance, funeral and death benefits for veterans and their families. We expect to continue our active support for these issues in 2011 and will continue to work with the Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, TAPS, the VSO's and other groups and agencies to continually support all congressional initiatives to improve the funeral and burial benefits and services for veterans and their families.

NFDA Governance History:
1998: Committee Action 1/13/98; Policy Board Action 3/30/98
1999: Committee Action 1/26/99; Policy Board Action 3/15/99
2000: Committee Action 2/1/00; Policy Board Action 3/27/00
2001: Committee Action 1/30/01; Policy Board Action 3/19/01
2002: Committee Action 1/29/02; Policy Board Action 3/18/02
2003: Committee Action 1/23/03; Policy Board Action 3/24/03
2004: Committee Action 1/26/04; Policy Board Action 3/15/04
2005: Committee Action 1/18/05; Policy Board Action 3/7/05
2006: Committee Action 1/17/06; Policy Board Action 3/8/06
2007: Committee Action 1/16/07; Policy Board Action 3/26/07
2008: Committee Action 1/14/08; Policy Board Action 3/10/08
2009: Committee Action 1/29/09; Policy Board Action 3/30/09
2010: Committee Action 1/20/10; Policy Board Action 3/08/10
2011: Committee Action 1/27/11; Policy Board Action 3/09/11
Attest: NFDA Policy Board (original resolution) Date: March 30, 1998 File Code: RES039/Policybd