

## LEGISLATION FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### U.S.1790 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1790/text#toc-H9F11A54311FB4C5FAEFEE3172814A090>

#### **SEC. 578. MEETINGS OF OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH SURVIVORS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) *CHIEFS OF THE ARMED FORCES.*—The Secretary of Defense shall direct the chiefs of the Armed Forces to meet periodically with survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces to receive feedback from those survivors regarding issues affecting such survivors. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall meet with survivors of deceased members of the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard.

(b) *UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS.*—The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall meet periodically with survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces to discuss policies of the Department of Defense regarding military casualties and Gold Star families.

(c) *BRIEFING.*—Not later than April 1, 2020, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall brief the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives regarding policies established and the results of the meetings under subsection (b).

#### **SEC. 579. DIRECT EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE, VETERANS, THEIR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS, AND MEMBERS OF GOLD STAR FAMILIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to enhance the efforts of the Department of Defense to provide job placement assistance and related employment services directly to the following:

- (1) *Members of the National Guard and Reserves in reserve active status.*
- (2) *Veterans of the Armed Forces.*
- (3) *Spouses and other dependents of individuals referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2).*
- (4) *Members of Gold Star Families.*
- (5) *Spouses and other dependents of members of the Armed Forces on active duty.*

**SEC. 581. EXPANSION OF GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON ELIGIBILITY TO STEPSIBLINGS; FREE REPLACEMENT.**

(a) *ELIGIBILITY OF STEPSIBLINGS.*—Subsection (d)(3) of section 1126 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and half sisters” and inserting “half sisters, stepbrothers, and stepsisters”.

(b) *FREE REPLACEMENT.*—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking “and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution” and inserting “at no cost to that person”.

**SEC. 596. EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE DAY”.**

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) *March 2, 2020, marked the 91st anniversary of President Calvin Coolidge signing an Act of Congress that approved and funded the first Gold Star pilgrimage to enable Gold Star families to travel to the gravesites of their loved ones who died during World War I.*

(2) *The members of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States.*

(3) *The sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten.*

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress to—

(1) *support the designation of a “Gold Star Families Remembrance Day”;*

(2) *honor and recognize the sacrifices made by the families of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who gave their lives to defend freedom and protect America; and*

(3) *encourage the people of the United States to observe “Gold Star Families Remembrance Day” by—*

(A) *performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and*

(B) *celebrating the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

## H.R. 3945- “Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act.”

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3495/text>

<https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=110303>

Department of Veterans Affairs grants for provision of covered services under collective impact model to reduce the risk of suicide for veterans and their families.

The NEB endorses this bill and its purpose.

## H.R. 3615 – “Honor and Remember Flag Recognition Act.”

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3615/titles>

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the Honor and Remember Flag created by Honor and Remember, Inc. as an official symbol to recognize and honor members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

The NEB did not endorse this bill.

## H.R.2481 – “Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act.”

This bill treats certain military survivor benefits that are received by children as earned income of the child for the purposes of the kiddie tax (the tax on the unearned income of children). This has the effect of exempting the benefits from such tax.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2481?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+2481%22%5D%7D&s=3&r=1>

## H.R.2716 – “Protecting Gold Star Children Act of 2019.”

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to not apply changes under [Public Law 115–97](#) pertaining to the kiddie tax to children receiving certain military survivor benefits.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2716/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+2481%22%5D%7D&r=2&s=3>

## H.R.2819 – “Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act.”

This bill extends through January 2, 2024, the authority of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star families.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2819?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Gold+Star%22%7D>