



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 3656: To establish a consistent applicability date for provision of memorial headstones and markers for eligible non-veteran individuals

Background:

Under current law, non-veterans are eligible for a memorial headstone or marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if they meet certain requirements, but the dates for eligibility differ for each class of non-veterans. Due to this inconsistency in dates, certain surviving spouses of veterans may be eligible for a headstone or marker while their children are not.

H.R. 3656 rectifies this inconsistency by requiring VA to provide a headstone or marker for all eligible non-veterans who die on or after November 11, 1998.

The Message:

- Certain non-veterans qualify for memorial headstones or markers from VA, but eligibility dates differ for each class of non-veterans.
- This inconsistency in eligibility dates may prohibit children from being honored with a memorial headstone even though their parent qualifies.
- This bill makes the eligibility date for non-veterans who qualify for memorial headstones consistent across the classes of non-veterans.