

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 595

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the musical piece commonly known as “Taps” as the National Song of Remembrance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. RICHARDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the musical piece commonly known as “Taps” as the National Song of Remembrance, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The bugle call commonly known as “Taps”
6 is known throughout the United States as part of
7 the military honors accorded at funerals, memorial

1 services, and wreath ceremonies held for members of
2 the uniformed services and veterans.

3 (2) In July 1862, following the Seven Days
4 Battles, Union General Daniel Butterfield and bu-
5 gler Oliver Willcox Norton created “Taps” at Berk-
6 ley Plantation, Virginia, as a way to signal the end
7 of daily military activities.

8 (3) “Taps” is now codified by the uniformed
9 services as the last call of the day and is sounded
10 at the completion of a military funeral.

11 (4) “Taps” has become the signature, solemn
12 musical farewell for members of the uniformed serv-
13 ices and veterans who have faithfully served the
14 United States during times of war and peace.

15 (5) Over its almost 150 years of use, “Taps”
16 has been woven into the historical fabric of the
17 United States.

18 (6) When sounded, “Taps” summons emotions
19 of loss, pride, honor, and respect and encourages
20 Americans to remember patriots who served the
21 United States with honor and valor.

22 (7) The 150th anniversary of the writing of
23 “Taps” will be observed with events culminating in
24 June 2012 with a rededication of the Taps Monu-
25 ment at Berkley Plantation, Virginia.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that at a military funeral,
3 memorial service, or wreath laying, “Taps” should be
4 sounded by a live solo bugler or trumpeter when such ar-
5 rangements are possible.

6 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF “TAPS” AS NATIONAL SONG OF**
7 **REMEMBRANCE.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new section:

11 **“§ 306. National Song of Remembrance**

12 “(a) DESIGNATION.—The bugle call commonly
13 known as ‘Taps’, consisting of 24 notes sounded on a
14 bugle or trumpet performed by a solo bugler or trumpeter
15 without accompaniment or embellishment, is the National
16 Song of Remembrance.

17 “(b) CONDUCT DURING SOUNDING.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During a performance of
19 ‘Taps’ at a military funeral, memorial service, or
20 wreath laying—

21 “(A) all present, except persons in uni-
22 form, should stand at attention with the right
23 hand over the heart;

24 “(B) men not in uniform should remove
25 their headdress with their right hand and hold

1 the headdress at the left shoulder, the hand
2 being over the heart; and

3 “(C) persons in uniform should stand at
4 attention and give the military salute at the
5 first note of ‘Taps’ and maintain that position
6 until the last note.

7 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
8 apply when ‘Taps’ is sounded as the final bugle call
9 of the day at a military base.

10 “(c) DEFINITION OF MILITARY BASE.—In this sec-
11 tion, the term ‘military base’ means a base, camp, post,
12 station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or
13 other activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of
14 Defense, including any leased facility, which is located
15 within any of the several States, the District of Columbia,
16 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the
17 Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
18 iana Islands, or Guam.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) CHAPTER HEADING.—The heading of chap-
21 ter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

1 **“CHAPTER 3—NATIONAL ANTHEM, MOTTO,**
2 **AND OTHER NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS”.**

3 (2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The item relating
4 to chapter 3 in the table of chapters for such title
5 is amended to read as follows:

“3. National Anthem, Motto, and Other National Designations 301”.

6 (3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
7 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new item:

“306. National Song of Remembrance.”.

