

*It's Time To Give Our Fallen The Respect
They Deserve On Memorial Day*

Always Remembered



***According to a recent 2025 survey by Savanta,
a global data, market research, and advisory company,
52% of Americans believe Memorial Day
has lost its original meaning.***

“Happy Memorial Day”: How many times have I heard that throughout the years? It’s *NOT* a happy day for the families of the fallen. People are just not sure what to say as they think that this is about celebrating veterans, or it’s the best time to purchase mattresses or cars... OR they know that it is the opening day for pools or just enough time for a quick trip to the beach or the lake. And don’t forget the BBQ’s with lots of alcohol. Meanwhile, the Memorial Day Events at the cemeteries are getting smaller each year as most of the attendees are elderly veterans.

What message does that send to new or prospective military recruits? If you don’t come home from serving your country; you and your family will likely be forgotten by the general population of our country.


We devote an entire month to pride and black history, yet we are not educating our youth on the sacrifices that brave men and women have made to keep our country free. It’s no wonder we have the misguided youth of today burning our flags, disrespecting our authorities' and marching for our enemies.

It’s time to reestablish this commission to educate our future leaders on how we must honor these fallen men and women of the Armed Service. I pray for your support.

God Save Our Republic!

Sincerely,

Michael Chapman

Michael Chapman 

704-219-2484



Always Remembered

To those who currently lead our country;

These three presidents have expressed the beliefs of all Gold Star families. We pray that you will take these great words of wisdom to heart and help us to restore Memorial Day to the elevated seat of honor that it deserves.

God Bless Our Great Republic!

Michael Chapman 

Honoring Christopher J. Chapman, 160th S.O.A.R.

KIA February 21st 1991

President Ronald Reagan

Excerpts of remarks at Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day May 31, 1982

*"I have no illusions about what little I can add now to the silent testimony of those who gave their lives willingly for their country. Words are even more feeble on this Memorial Day, for the sight before us is that of a strong and good nation that stands in silence and remembers those who were loved and who, in return, loved their countrymen enough to die for them. Yet, we must try to honor them -- not for their sakes alone, but for our own. And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice. As we honor their memory today, **let us pledge that their lives, their sacrifices, their valor shall be justified and remembered for as long as God gives life to this nation.**"*

President Barack Obama

Excerpts of remarks at Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day May 25th 2015

*"The Americans who rest beneath these beautiful hills and in sacred ground across our country and around the world, they are why our nation endures. Each simple stone marker arranged in perfect military precision, signifies the cost of our blessings. **It is a debt we can never fully repay. But it is a debt we'll never stop trying to fully repay,** by remaining a nation worthy of their sacrifice. By living our own lives the way the fallen lived theirs - a testament that greater love has no other than this than to lay down your life for your friends."*

President Donald J. Trump

Excerpts of remarks at Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day May 26, 2025

*"In every hour of peril, in every moment of crisis, American warriors have left behind the blessings of home and family to answer their nation's call. They've offered all that they had within them, and given their last breaths to each and every one of us that we might live safe, and breathe free. Each of the service members who have made the supreme sacrifice for our nation has also left an unfillable void and an unbreakable silence in the lives of all who love them. For the families of the fallen, you feel the absence of your heroes every day in the family. Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving America the brightest light in your lives. **We will never, ever forget our fallen heroes, and we will never forget our debt to you.** Most people can't even imagine it. Great poets have written that it's love which moves the sun and the stars. But here on the sacred soil, right where we are, we're reminded that it's love which moves the course of history and moves it always toward freedom. America's best and America's bravest have fought, bled, and died so that we could pick up the torch of liberty, raise it high, high, high, and carry it onward to places they could never have dreamed of before."*

Vision For “Always Remembered Memorial Day” Commission

History Of Memorial Day Commission

Public Law 106-579 106th Congress

An Act: To establish the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance, and for other purposes. Dec. 28, 2000 The Commission was charged with the education of American citizens concerning Memorial Day and the men and women it honors.

After 10 years, the commission was disbanded and in conclusion did **not** complete it's charge.

Goals of New “Commission”

- 1) Educate all Americans about the true meaning of Memorial Day. Create curriculums and programs for the education of our youth
- 2) Enlist small and large businesses to properly treat memorial day as a remembrance day vs simply a sales promotional day. Enlist the support of all of the chambers of commerce, state legislators, veterans organizations, school systems, along with other entities around the nation.
- 3) Link different organizations that help fallen families with a central web site. Support the fallen soldiers families with information from these organizations.
- 4) Look at the current Monday Memorial Day vs the original day set for Memorial Day.

Commission Members

The Commission Board will include the following members:

- 5 Gold Star Family Members (The Executive Director appointed from a Gold Star Family)
- 3 members appointed by the President, including at least 1 representative of tribal governments.
- 1 Veteran from each of the prospective branches of the military
- 1 historian and 2 educators
- 1 representative from each the National Veterans Organizations
- 2 members from the Senate and House of Representatives (1 of each political party / veterans preferred)
- 1 JAG Officer
- 1 representative from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- 1 representative from a News Media Service

The following government agencies will be represented:

Secretary of Defense / Secretary of Commerce / Secretary of Education / Secretary of Veterans Affairs / Administrator of the Small Business Administration / Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Staffing Of Commission

Year One

- 1 Executive Director
- 1 Field Representative
- 2 Office Administrators (1-full time 1-part time)
- 1 Social Media and Web site Administrator (Contract worker)
- 1 Web site designer and monthly maintenance
- 2 Interns from local colleges
- 1 Accountant on retainer
- 1 Attorney on retainer

Year Two

Add Reginal Ambassadors (Gold Star Persons OR Veterans) part time

Time-Line

1-6 months

- a) Acquire and set up office space.
- b) Hire Staff
- c) Develop logo (Graphic design Contest)
- d) Locate advertising agency for assistance
- e) Identify media outlets around country
- f) Create media (audio, video, and print)
- g) Have two commission meetings (elect officers and assign committees.)

7-12 months

- a) Identify Organizations that help Fallen Families
- b) Acquire names of fallen soldiers for web site Wall Of Honor and reach out to Gold Star Families.
- c) Development of School curriculum on education of Memorial Day meaning and History
- d) Develop programs for different organizations for distribution
- e) Identify and attend the National Educators Association, National Chamber Association, and different Veteran Organizations national meetings.
- f) Develop adoption programs for schools to recognize fallen families.
- g) Develop incentive programs for corporations and businesses for fund raising (cash and in-kind)
- h) Start sending field reps out to develop funding for projects.
- I) Develop a remembrance resolution for every state and US Territory to adopt for Memorial Day
- J) Develop and offer items for sell through web site and vendors around the country.

Year Two - Five

- a) Continue working on programs from year one.
- b) Develop an ambassador program that has representation in every state.
- c) Develop event strategies for Memorial Day events around the country.
- d) Evaluate, modify and update programs for better effectiveness.

Operational Budget

Initial Year One Commission Set-up cost	\$500,00.00
Year One Office and Staff Operating Cost	\$550,000.00
Total First Year Budget	\$1,050,000.00

The 2000 White House Commission on Remembrance received first year funding of \$500,000.00 and then \$250,000.00 annually for ten years.

Fund raising and corporate support will be part of the mission of the staff.

This should be set up and run like a business to achieve our goals.
It will be equipped to continue long into the future.

PREPARED BY:

Michael Chapman
704 219-2484 cell
310 Kay St
Salisbury, NC 28146



An Act To establish the “Always Remembered / Memorial Day Commission”

SECTION I.

SHORT TITLE. “Always Remembered”

Congress is urged to find that:

- (1) it is essential to remember and renew the legacy of Memorial Day, which was established in 1868 to pay tribute to individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States and their families;
- (2) greater strides must be made to demonstrate appreciation for those loyal people of the United States whose values, represented by their sacrifices, are crucial to the future of the United States;
- (3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for the national heritage, and to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which those heroes of the United States died;
- (4) the relevance of Memorial Day must be made more apparent to present and future generations of people of the United States through local and national observances and ongoing activities;
- (5) in House Concurrent Resolution 302, agreed to May 25, 2000, Congress called on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Moment of Remembrance to honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;
- (6) Always Remembered / Memorial Day Commission events throughout the year are needed to reclaim Memorial Day as the sacred and noble event that this day is intended to become.

SEC. II.

DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Commission -- The term “Commission” means the Always Remembered / Memorial Day Commission.
- (2) Executive director and white house liaison.-- The term “Executive Director and White House Liaison” means the Executive Director and White House Liaison appointed.
- (3) Memorial day.-- The term “Memorial Day” means the legal public holiday designated as Memorial Day by section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code.
- (5) Tribal government.-- The term “tribal government” means the governing body of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).

FIRST DRAFT
6-19-2025

SECOND DRAFT
7-2-2025

THIRD DRAFT
7-14-2025

SEC. III.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ALWAYS REMEMBERED / MEMORAL DAY COMMISSION

(1) Establishment.-- This commission will be established as the “Always Remembered / Memorial Day Commission”; to be referred to as the “Always Remembered Commission” will be termed as a perpetual commission.

(2) Membership.-- Composition.--The Commission shall be composed of the following:

(A) 3 members appointed by the President, including at least 1 representative of tribal governments. (To be changed at the discretion of the acting President.)

(B) 5 Gold Star Family Members (The Executive Director / White House Liaison to be picked from a gold star family.)

(C) 1 Veteran from each of the prospective branches of the military

(D) 1 Historian and 2 Educators

(E) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or a designee).

(F) The Secretary of Defense (or a designee).

(G) The Secretary of Commerce (or a designee).

(H) The Secretary of Education (or a designee).

(I) The Administrator of the Small Business (or a designee).

(J) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or a designee).

(K) 1 representative from each the National Veterans Organizations

(L) 2 members from the Senate and House of Representatives (1 of each political party / veterans preferred)

(M) 1 representative from The U.S. Chamber of Commerce

(N) 1 JAG Officer

(O) 1 representative from a News Media Service

(P) Anyone which the Commission determines is necessary to carry out this Act.

(3) Date of appointments--- All appointments under paragraph (2) shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) Term; Vacancies / Term--A member shall be appointed to the Commission for the period of 4 years. At which time commission members will be voted on to be reappointed.

EXCEPTION: Section III: paragraph #2: subsections A, E, F, G, H, I, J,N: may be replaced by specific agency at their desecration.

Vacancies.--A vacancy on the Commission--

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) Initial Meeting.--Not later than 30 days after the date for completion of appointments, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission through teleconferencing .

(5) Meetings.--The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(A) Quorum.--A majority of the voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum from in-person or teleconferencing roll call, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(6) The Chairperson shall be the Executive Director.--The Commission shall select a Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission at the initial meeting of the Commission.

SEC. IV. DUTIES.

(1) In General.--The Commission shall--

(A) Create plans to encourage the people of the United States to remember and honor those men and women who have served our country in the military and during that service lost their life while helping to provides us with freedom and opportunity;

(B) Coordinate with the primary, and secondary educators in every state to develop and provide curriculum available for instruction in the classroom on the topic of Memorial Day.

(C) Establish a Gold Star family registry and establish a family adoption program for Schools (Public, Private, and Home school) to reach out to support the families of the fallen.

(D) Encourage national, state, local, and tribal participation by individuals and entities in commemoration of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance, including participation by--

- (a) national humanitarian and patriotic organizations;
- (b) elementary, secondary, and higher education institutions;
- (c) veterans' societies and civic, patriotic, educational, sporting, artistic, cultural, and historical organizations;
- (d) Federal departments and agencies; and
- (e) museums, including cultural and historical museums;
- (f) Local and National businesses

(E) Develop an interactive web site with education, resource's for Gold Star Families, calendar of all of the Memorial Day events across the country, and a media resource page.

(F) Develop media campaigns for use by participating businesses

(G) Help with national coordination for commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

(H) Establish a State Ambassador Program

- (a) General: To represent and coordinate Memorial Day Commission Activities in the state.
- (b) Help with fund raising in that state to be designated used in such state.

(I) Work with national and local chamber of commerce to develop proper messages for business to convey to the public around Memorial Day.

(2) Reports.-- In general.--

(A) For each fiscal year in which the Commission is in existence, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report describing the activities of the Commission during the fiscal year.

(B) Contents.--A report under paragraph may include-

- (a) recommendations regarding appropriate activities to commemorate Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance, including--
- (b) the production, publication, and distribution of books, pamphlets, films, and other educational materials;
- (c) bibliographical and documentary projects and publications;
- (d) conferences, convocations, lectures, seminars, and other similar programs;
- (e) the development of exhibits for libraries, museums, and other appropriate institutions;
- (f) ceremonies and celebrations commemorating specific events that relate to the history of wars of the United States.

SEC. V.

POWERS.

(1) Hearings.--

(A) In general.--The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this Act.

(B) Public participation.--The Commission shall provide for reasonable public participation in matters before the Commission.

(2) Information From Federal Agencies.--

(A) In general.--The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this Act.

(B) Provision of information.--On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Commission.

(C) Postal Services.--The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(3) Gifts.--

The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of, without further Act of appropriation, gifts, bequests, devises, and donations of services or property.

(4) Powers of Members and Agents.--

Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(A) Authority To Procure and To Make Legal Agreements.--

(1) In general.--Subject to the availability of appropriations, to carry out this Act, the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Commission or the Executive Director and White House Liaison may, on behalf of the Commission--

(b) procure supplies, services, and property; and

(c) enter into contracts, leases, and other legal agreements.

(5) Restrictions.--

(1) Who may act on behalf of commission.--

Except as provided in paragraph A, nothing in this Act authorizes a member of the Commission to procure any item or enter into any agreement described in that paragraph.

(b) Duration of legal agreements.--A contract, lease, or other legal agreement entered into by the Commission may not extend such agreements without the majority vote of the commission.

(2) Supplies and property possessed by commission.--

Any supply, property, or other asset that is acquired for the commissions' use, shall be considered property of the General Services Administration.

(5) Exclusive Right to Name, Logos, Emblems, Seals, and Marks.--

(A) In general.--The Commission may devise any logo, emblem, seal, or other designating mark that the Commission determines--

(a) to be required to carry out the duties of the Commission; or

(b) to be appropriate for use in connection with the commemoration of Memorial Day or the National Moment of Remembrance.

(B) Licensing.--

(a) In general.--The Commission--

(1) shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name ``Honor Memorial Day', "Always Remembered", Always Remembered / Honor Memorial Day Commission or the National Moment of Remembrance" on any logo, emblem, seal, or descriptive or designating mark that the Commission lawfully adopts; and

(2) shall have the sole and exclusive right to allow or refuse the use by any other entity of the name ``Honor Memorial Day, Always Remembered / Honor Memorial Day Commission or the National Moment of Remembrance" on any logo, emblem, seal, or descriptive or designating mark.

(C) Effect on other rights.-- Nothing in this subsection affects any right established or vested before the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) Use of funds.--The Commission may, without further Act of appropriation, use funds received from licensing royalties under this section to carry out this Act.

SEC. VI.

COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(1) Compensation of Members.--

(A) Non-federal employees.--A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government may be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission..

(B) Federal employees.--A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government

(2) Travel Expenses.--

A member of the Commission may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(3) Staff.--

(A) In general.--The Chairperson of the Commission or the Executive Director / White House Liaison may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) Compensation.--

(a) In general.--Except as provided in subparagraph; the Members of the Commission, by vote, may fix the compensation of the Executive Director / White House Liaison and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates. The rate of pay for the Executive Director / White House Liaison and other personnel shall not exceed the rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(4) Detail of Federal Government Employees.--

(A) In general.--In addition to the details under paragraph 1-B, on request of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, or the Executive Director / White House Liaison, an employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement.

(B) Detail of specific employees.--

(a) Military details.-

(1) Army; air force.--The Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Air Force; The Secretary of the National Guard shall each detail a commissioned officer to assist the Commission in carrying out this Act.

(2) Navy; Marines; Coast Guard--The Secretary of the Navy; the Secretary of the Marine Corps; the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall detail a commissioned officer to assist the Commission in carrying out this Act.

(C) Veterans affairs; education.--The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Education shall each detail an officer or employee compensated above the level of GS-12 in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code to assist the Commission in carrying out this Act.

(D) Civil service status.--The detail of any officer or employee under this subsection shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(E) Procurement of Temporary and Intermittent Services.--The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(5) Cooperative Agreements.--

(A) In general.--The Commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with another entity, including any Federal agency, State or local government, or private entity, under which the entity may assist the Commission in-- (a) carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act; and

(b) contributing to public awareness of and interest in Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. (B) Administrative support services.--On the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, any administrative support services and any property, equipment, or office space that the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

(C) Support From Nonprofit Sector.--The Commission may accept program support from nonprofit organizations.

SEC. VII.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND WHITE HOUSE LIAISON.

(1) Appointment.--

(A) In general.--The Director of the Committee Management Secretariat Staff of the General Services Administration shall appoint a qualified Gold Star Family member as Executive Director / White House Liaison.

(B) Inapplicability of certain civil service laws.-- The Executive Director / White House Liaison may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

(C) Duties.--The Executive Director / White House Liaison shall--

(a) serve as a liaison between the Commission and the President;

(b) serve as chief of staff of the Commission; Chairman of the Commission: and (iii) coordinate the efforts of the Commission and the President on all matters relating to this Act, including matters relating to the National Moment of Remembrance.

(2) Compensation.--

(A) The Executive Director / White House Liaison may be compensated at a rate to be determined by the General Services Administration for each day(s) (including travel time) during which the Executive Director / White House Liaison is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission; Until such time as the first meeting of the commission, compensation will be determined for The Executive Director / White House Liaison at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the Executive Director / White House Liaison is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

SEC. VIII.

LOCATION OF COMMISSION OFFICE____

(1) In the spirit of making America great again; The “Always Remembered” Commission office should be located away from the politics, expense and traffic clutter of Washington, D.C.. It will be easier to work with local government to help with office space, staffing and ease of access. The location should be within 45 mins of a major airport and should have access to quality hotels and restaurants. The office will be equipped with internet communication access for remote meetings and corporate presentations.

SEC. IX.

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

(1) In General.- The Comptroller General of the United States shall audit, on an annual basis, the financial transactions of the Commission including financial transactions involving donated funds) in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

(2) Access.--The Commission shall ensure that the Comptroller General, in conducting an audit under this section, has--

(A) access to all books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and other papers, items, or property in use by the Commission, as necessary to facilitate the audit; and

(B) full ability to verify the financial transactions of the Commission, including access to any financial records or securities held for the Commission by depositories, fiscal agents, or custodians.

SEC. XI.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended--

(A) \$1,050,000 for first fiscal year. (includes office set up. Marketing material and other misc. office items)

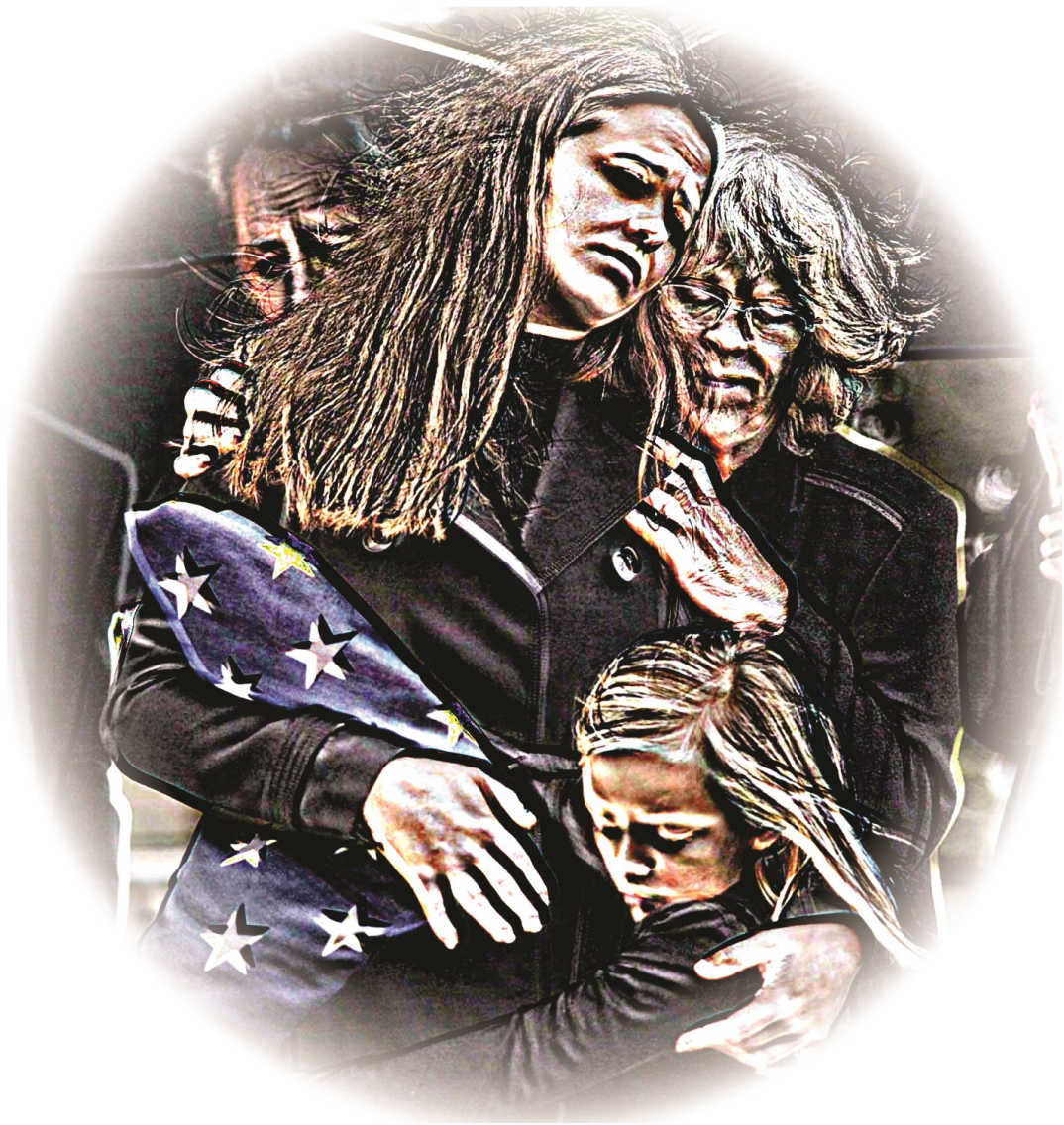
(B) \$550,000 for each additional year plus inflation adjustments.

SEC. XII.

TERMINATION.

(1) As the need for honoring the military fallen and the families of those fallen has no foreseeable end; AND the necessity of US military to protect our freedoms will be never ending; The Commission shall have no termination date.

(2) The Commission will review it's purpose, accomplishments, and future objectives every four years and this report will be submitted to the President in office.



*Let's Make Sure That
Americans Always Remember
The Sacrifices That Were
Made For The
Freedom Of Our Country.*