

Washington, DC - Today, the House passed the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act (H.R. 5037), legislation which will prevent protestors from harassing mourners at funerals for men and women who die in service to the nation. U.S. Rep. John Campbell (R-Irvine), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Co...

Washington, DC - Today, the House passed the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act (H.R. 5037), legislation which will prevent protestors from harassing mourners at funerals for men and women who die in service to the nation. U.S. Rep. John Campbell (R-Irvine), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a cosponsor of the bill, supported its passage.

"The brave men and women who have given their lives to the service of our nation deserve a peaceful burial, and our nation has a responsibility to ensure that their families are not subject to vile hate speech while they say good bye to their loved ones," stated Campbell.

H.R. 5037 will bar protesters from demonstrating at military funerals held at national cemeteries for an hour before and after the services take place, and it prevents protestors from coming within 500 feet of mourners and the site of the funeral service. The bill also includes language calling on every state to enact similar laws pertaining to military memorial services held at funeral homes and cemeteries that are not on federal property.

"It is unfortunate that this legislation is even necessary, but I was encouraged to see so many of my colleagues join in this effort to ensure our fallen heroes are treated with dignity," added Campbell.

H.R. 5037 was cosponsored by over 200 members of the House of Representatives. Additionally, the legislation was supported by a wide ranging coalition of veterans and military groups including the American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans Fleet Reserve Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and We Care America.