



# T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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April 29, 2011

Senator Olympia Snowe  
Senate Russell Office Building, Rm. 154  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, is writing to express our strong support for your bill, S.815, the Sanctity of Eternal Rest for Veterans (SERVE) Act.

Members of TMC organizations have fought in our nation's wars to protect the right of free speech of all citizens under the First Amendment. With free speech comes the responsibility to uphold other protections in the Bill of Rights. In this context, we believe the nation must do more to honor the right of privacy of families and loved ones of our military members killed in defense of our freedoms. S.815 would protect the dignity of these mourners, while preserving the free speech of demonstrators at military funerals.

The SERVE Act would:

- Increase period of time when no demonstrations are allowed before and after funeral services from 60 minutes to 120 minutes.
- Extend from 150 to 300 feet the distance from funeral-goers within which protests are prohibited at private cemeteries, and from 300 ft. to 500 feet at National Cemeteries or Arlington National Cemetery
- Impose certain penalties on violators
- Allow immediate family members and the United States Attorney General each to sue violators for monetary damages

The Military Coalition is grateful for your leadership in introducing S.815 and we pledge our full support towards its early enactment.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition

(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
AMVETS (American Veterans)  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Association of the United States Army  
Association of the United States Navy  
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps League  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Guard Association of the United States  
National Military Family Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States  
Reserve Officers Association  
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Vietnam Veterans of America