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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.**

To amend title 4, United States Code, to ensure that a funeral honors detail recites the 13 Folds of Honor when presenting a flag of the United States in connection with the death of a member of the Armed Forces or veteran.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 4, United States Code, to ensure that a funeral honors detail recites the 13 Folds of Honor when presenting a flag of the United States in connection with the death of a member of the Armed Forces or veteran.

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. RECITATION OF 13 FOLDS OF HONOR.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5 gress that this Act be dedicated to the 13 members of the

1 Armed Forces who were killed at Hamid Karzai Inter-  
2 national Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2021.

3 (b) REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 1 of title 4, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new section (and conforming the table of sections  
6 for such chapter accordingly):

7 **“§ 11. Recitation of 13 Folds of Honor**

8 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided by sub-  
9 section (b), a funeral honors detail that presents a folded  
10 flag of the United States in connection with the death of  
11 a member of the Armed Forces or veteran under section  
12 1491 of title 10, section 2301 of title 38, or other applica-  
13 ble provision of law, shall recite the following (to be known  
14 as the ‘13 Folds of Honor’) as part of such presentment:

15 “The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

16 “The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

17 “The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of  
18 the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of  
19 their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace  
20 throughout the world.

21 “The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as  
22 American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn  
23 in times of peace as well as in the time of war for His  
24 divine guidance.

1           “The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the  
2 words of Stephen Decatur, ‘Our Country, in dealing with  
3 other countries, may she always be right; but it is still  
4 our country, right or wrong.’

5           “The 6th fold is for where people’s hearts lie. It is  
6 with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of  
7 the United States of America, and the Republic for which  
8 it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty  
9 and Justice for all.

10          “The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for  
11 it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their  
12 country and their flag against all her enemies, whether  
13 they be found within or without the boundaries of their  
14 republic.

15          “The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered  
16 the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the  
17 light of day.

18          “The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood and Moth-  
19 ers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty,  
20 and devotion that the character of the men and women  
21 who have made this country great has been molded.

22          “The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too,  
23 has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their  
24 country since they were first born.

1           “‘The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the  
2 seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the  
3 Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

4           “‘The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and  
5 glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son  
6 and Holy Spirit.

7           “‘The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded,  
8 the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nation’s  
9 motto, ‘In God We Trust.’.

10          “(b) EXCEPTION.—The next of kin or other agent of  
11 a deceased member of the Armed Forces or veteran may  
12 elect to not have the 13 Folds of Honor recited under sub-  
13 section (a).’.”.