



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
*Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.*

**H.R. 497: The Burial Rights for America's Veterans' Efforts (BRAVE) Act of 2019**

**Background:**

Since 1917, Congress has authorized a burial allowance to help cover funeral expenses for certain veterans. This policy was changed in 1973 so that the allotted amount a veteran's family received reflected whether or not the veteran's death was related to their service. Currently, a veteran's burial allowance is \$2,000 if their death was service-related, \$780 if the veteran's cause of death is not service-connected and they passed in a VA facility, and \$300 if their cause of death was not service-related and the veteran meets certain conditions.

This legislation would update the burial allowance each fiscal year to reflect current inflation. H.R. 497 would also raise the \$300 benefit for veterans with a non-service connected death to match the allowance for veterans who pass away in a VA facility.

**The Message:**

- The current burial allowances for veterans are significantly outdated and in need of modernizing to reflect current inflation.
- This legislation ensures that all veterans receive a burial allowance comparable to today's financial standards.