

**2013 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SB 2264**

# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
02/07/2013  
Job Numbers 18457 & 18463

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Bill for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for veterans' military caskets.

## Minutes:

**Chairman Dever:** Opened the Hearing on SB 2264.

**Senator Marcellais:** See Attachment #1 for testimony as sponsor and in support of the bill.

**(2:30) Chairman Dever:** How did you arrive at the appropriation?

**Senator Marcellais:** The prices for the caskets are in the binder. They range from \$1200 to \$2800, and at \$2800, I estimated 1000 caskets over the biennium; which would come to \$2.8 million.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** How did you come up with the 1000 veterans? Is that an average over a biennium?

**Senator Marcellais:** That was an estimate that I found in the North Dakota stats for the past two years.

**Senator Cook:** I assume any veteran can purchase one of these caskets now with the right qualifications?

**Senator Marcellais:** That is correct. I feel the state pay for them in honor of our veterans in North Dakota.

**Chairman Dever:** Could a non-veteran purchase them?

**Senator Marcellais:** As far I know they can.

**Senator Cook:** There are no criteria that one has to meet that are established by veteran's organizations that before you can buy one of these you have to be a vet?

**Senator Marcellais:** I am just displaying the caskets themselves. It is up to the individuals which casket the families decide.

**Chairman Dever:** You say in the bill of a type of approved by the Adjutant General. Is that concern about the form or the quality?

**Senator Marcellais:** That is probably the qualifications for ordering the caskets through the state. I talked to one of our honor guards and the state of Michigan not only purchases the caskets for the veterans, they also purchase them for the spouses.

**Chairman Dever:** We will have further discussion with you on this.

**(5:45) Senator Lyson, District 1:** Testified as sponsor and in support of the bill. I have been the commander of the firing squad in Williston since 1963 and you cannot believe some of the caskets that we see at military veterans funerals. They deserve something better than a welfare casket.

**(6:48) Vice Chairman Berry:** I noticed that it talks about the price range. It mentions the typical price and what it is offered for is in the neighborhood of 1/3 of the price of what these would be sold for. Is that specifically for military discounts?

**Senator Marcellais:** Currently that is the prices on the internet. I have been contacted by a company in South Dakota that makes these caskets. There may be a cheaper price.

**(8:14) Steve Volk, State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars North Dakota:**

Testified in support of the bill. We stand behind this bill and we all voted unanimously to support it.

**(8:43) Chairman Dever:** It would seem to me that \$2.8 million might be a little ambitious knowing the legislative process. I wonder if there might be some kind of an adjustment or means testing that we should be considering.

**Steve Volk:** It is something that can be looked into.

**Senator Nelson:** (Requests General Al Dohrmann to answer some questions.) Do you get requests from counties where they have veterans that need help or advice on how to acquire something other than poverty casket?

**Al Dohrmann, Deputy Adjutant General:** I am not aware of any. The way the system works is if that situation did exist you would assume they would go through their county veteran's service officer. As a fallback, through our military service centers, we have our veteran's outreach officers that are out there in the communities.

**Senator Nelson:** Are servicemen that died in the service of our country brought back in military caskets that are provided by the United States?

**General Al Dohrmann:** I believe that is correct. There are a number of entitlements under that circumstance that are provided to the family. It would be my assumption.

**Chairman Dever:** Could you share with me beyond the plot, what is covered when a veteran is buried at the veteran's cemetery?

**Lt. Colonel French, North Dakota National Guard:** I did call and ask that question before this hearing started. At the cemetery, the plot is free. The VA provides for a marker and they also provide a \$700 burial allowance. The grave liners and the caskets are extra. If you bury a spouse out there it is an additional \$550.

**Senator Cook:** That is a veteran that meets the criteria to be buried there. If a veteran chooses not to be buried there, they still can access a marker.

**Brenda Bergsrud, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs:** There is a \$500 burial allowance from the VA, and a \$500 plot allowance that they can apply for if it is non-service connected. If they pass away due to service connected, then those two amounts are \$2000 each. The marker is available to all and they have a choice of a few different markers, and it is available either way.

**Senator Cook:** Could we get information put together on benefits available today.

**Brenda Bergsrud:** Absolutely.

**Chairman Dever:** We need that as soon as possible.

**Chairman Dever:** It was stated by the Adjutant that he was not considered a veteran till 60?

**General Al Dohrmann:** There has been a debate at both the state and the national level that you have you gray area retirees in the National Guard and Reserve. You do your time and you retire from the Guard, but if you didn't achieve federal veteran's status during the time you were in the National Guard, between the point that you retire and age 60, you are referred to as a gray area retiree. Some of those benefits don't spring into effect until age 60.

**Chairman Dever:** Do we have the proper definition of a veteran in our state century code?

**General Al Dohrmann:** We have numerous definitions of veteran in our century code and that is something we have looked at every year. There is a push at the national level through the Military Officers Association and the National Guard Association and other to fix the gray area retiree veteran issue so that if you are a retiree of the National Guard or the Reserve that you are considered a veteran on the day you retire. It has not been fixed on the federal level yet and as soon as that happens we would want to follow suit as a state.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** You mentioned federal definition of a veteran, what differs there?

**General Al Dohrmann:** There are a lot of definitions, but as a general rule, if you are called into federal service and successfully complete what you are called to perform, you are a veteran under the federal definition.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** Could that also include if you were killed in action.

**General Al Dohrmann:** Absolutely. If you are a reservist and called to active duty for mobilization and you were killed while active duty you would most definitely be a veteran.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** Would that have to be abroad?

**General Al Dohrmann:** It would not have to be abroad as long as you completed whatever term of service requested of you.

**Chairman Dever:** Closed hearing on SB 2264.

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**Job Number 18463 begins here**

**Chairman Dever:** Opened SB 2264 for committee discussion.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** What definition of veteran are we using to be eligible for a casket?

**Senator Marcellais:** The honorable discharge of a DD214 form.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** Is that given to all folks who serve whether it is domestic, overseas, times of war, peace time, etc?

**Senator Marcellais:** It is given to all veterans that get discharged out of the military. You receive a DD214 on your discharge whether it is honorable or dishonorable. What I am saying is that in order to qualify for these caskets you have to have an honorable discharge.

**Chairman Dever:** As a matter of practice, I am sure the Adjutant General is going to seek a definition in the Century Code that is going to be appropriate to that.

**Senator Nelson:** Gave an example of another veteran that was discharged with psychological problems on their discharge, would he qualify?

**Chairman Dever:** I would imagine his discharge was probably not dishonorable but a general medical discharge. I am not sure how that would play out. I think the definition here may or may not apply under a general discharge. That is not dishonorable. My general thought is that \$2.8 million is ambitious. There is some justification in moving forward with something and I am not sure how that should be and I am not sure whether it should be referring strictly to the purchase of a casket only, but maybe increasing the contribution of funeral expenses. I am wondering if we should have some kind of means testing with it.

**Senator Nelson:** In the book sent around the price is about 1/3 of the market value and perhaps we need to put in something that veterans can get a casket at cost not at retail.

**Senator Cook:** I don't know if we went down this road that you would want the veteran to be able to do a whole lot of shopping that could affect the outcome of the appropriation. I think that if we go down this road, we need to pick one casket that that would apply to all of them. A US veteran's casket is \$1300-\$1400 dollars. I don't think it would be wise to allow shopping.

**Chairman Dever:** Along with that we would possibly need to specify that it would be for that level but if they wanted a different one they could pay the difference.

**Closed discussion on SB 2264.**

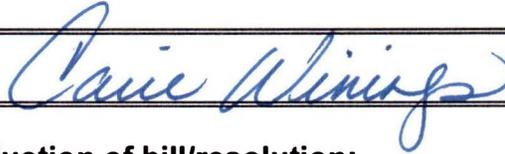
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
02/08/2013  
Job Number 18588

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

### Minutes:

**Chairman Dever:** Reopened committee discussion on SB 2264.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** I had a note to the question of means testing. There were questions if the appropriation may be used for general funeral expenses or caskets only. I guess discussing those issues and tightening that up would be my thought in moving forward. My own thought is if we look at it in providing a casket, we should pick a casket and allow for an individual to choose something more at their additional expense.

**Chairman Dever:** See Attachment #1 for information provided to the committee. (Goes over data on provided funding.) (3:12) My concern is that \$2.8 million won't survive the session. I am wondering if a lesser amount might. It was based on the assumption that 1000 veterans die over a biennium and we have 60,000 veterans in the state and I don't know that that quite computes.

**Senator Cook:** Don't we have another bill that required us to study veteran's benefits?

**Chairman Dever:** We drafted an amendment to the service dog's bill that already had a study on it.

**Senator Cook:** A couple of comments here. I think that it is a shame that we have veterans that because of their financial affairs can't afford a funeral. I know that goes on. When I look at burial benefits for veterans, they are driven by the VA and the federal government,

not by states in my mind. Before we start looking at making changes to veteran's burial benefits, I think that study is an important thing. We need to define the responsibility of the state and the federal government to our veterans. It is a notable bill, but I don't know what we can do to this bill to support it at this time.

**Senator Schaible:** I agree. If we have distraught people that are being buried in a welfare casket that served in our military, I really don't have a problem with that, but opening this up to every veteran is very extreme. I don't know if it is necessary to give caskets to people that can afford it. Obviously they don't have to take it. Opening it that far up and making it available for everyone is a little over the top for me.

**Chairman Dever:** Would a study more narrowly define?

**Senator Schaible:** I agree with the study as far as studying all of their benefits. It needs to include what veterans qualify for those benefits. There are several facets to that. I would be part of that.

**Chairman Dever:** Senator Marcellais you are my very good friend and I appreciate your service to our country and your support of veterans.

**Senator Marcellais:** I am not doing this for myself; I am doing it for all veterans. I have put in bills in the past and they were put into a study and the study never happened.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** I am wondering, you mentioned that the appropriation was aggressive and I am wondering if the sponsor would you consider a decrease in the appropriation? It might make the bill more palatable.

**Chairman Dever:** A decrease would require further definition of who it would apply to and to what extent.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** It would have to be redefined.

**Senator Nelson:** There has to be a minimum in here that the legislature believes that no veteran should be buried in a paupers grave/casket, and somehow there should be state funds to cover that so it never happens.

**Vice Chairman Berry:** I agree with that sentiment.

**Senator Nelson:** I don't know how to write it.

**Chairman Dever:** I am not sure either. I would be nice to have a discretionary fund under the control of someone that could do that. I know the Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs has created an additional fund that people can contribute to, not specifically for this purpose, but could be applied to that purpose.

**Senator Nelson:** The problem is that if we use the Adjutant General, he is with the Guard; we have regular military veterans too. Who does it run through? Does it go with Lonnie Wangen?

**Vice Chairman Berry:** Is there any way to hog-house this to word it to do what we are discussing?

**Senator Marcellais:** Moved a Do Pass as the bill stands and leave it up to appropriations.

**Senator Nelson:** Seconded.

**Senator Poolman:** I did not get my thoughts on paper before the motion was made, but I would love in the future that if this goes down, maybe next go around that would be a more palatable version.

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 3 yeas, 4 nays, 0 absent.**

**Motion fails.**

**Chairman Dever:** Do we have another motion?

**Senator Poolman:** (Gives wording for an amendment)

**Senator Nelson: Moved Amendments of Senator Poolman.**

**Senator Poolman: Seconded.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent.**

**Senator Poolman: Moved a Do Pass As Amended and Re-Refer to Appropriations.**

**Senator Nelson: Seconded.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent.**

**Senator Poolman: Carrier.**

13.0786.01001  
Title.02000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans  
Affairs Committee

February 8, 2013

2/8/13  
TD

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2264

Page 1, line 1, replace "adjutant general" with "commissioner of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$2,800,000" with "\$50,000"

Page 1, line 6, replace "adjutant general" with "commissioner of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 7, replace "of a type approved by the adjutant general" with "to a veteran who  
would otherwise be provided a welfare casket,"

Page 1, line 7, replace "any" with "the"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/8  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Marcellais Seconded By Senator Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chariman Dick Dever		✓	Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Vice Chairman Spencer Berry	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Dwight Cook		✓			
Senator Donald Schaible		✓			
Senator Nicole Poolman		✓			

Total (Yes) 3 No 4

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

fails

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/2

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number Senator Poolman's Amendment

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Nelson Seconded By Senator Poolman

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dick Dever	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Vice Chairman Spencer Berry	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais		✓
Senator Dwight Cook	✓				
Senator Donald Schaible	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/8

Roll Call Vote #: 3

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.6786.01001 02000

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Poolman Seconded By Senator Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dick Dever	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Vice Chairman Spencer Berry	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais		✓
Senator Dwight Cook	✓				
Senator Donald Schaible	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Poolman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2264: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2264 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "adjutant general" with "commissioner of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$2,800,000" with "\$50,000"

Page 1, line 6, replace "adjutant general" with "commissioner of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 7, replace "of a type approved by the adjutant general" with "to a veteran who would otherwise be provided a welfare casket,"

Page 1, line 7, replace "any" with "the"

Renumber accordingly

**2013 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2264**

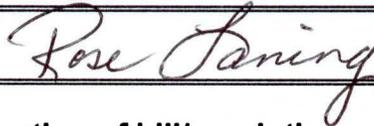
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
February 14, 2013  
Job # 18985

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the commissioner of veterans' affairs for veterans' military caskets.

### Minutes:

Testimony # 1-2

Legislative Council - Brittani Reim  
OMB - Sheila Peterson

**Chairman Holmberg** opened the hearing on SB 2264. All committee members were present.

**Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9, Rolette County** testified in favor of SB 2264.  
Testimony attached # 1  
Testimony attached # 2 - SB 2264 Veterans Military Caskets

This bill would allow for the benefit of purchasing veterans military caskets. He passed around pictures of the US veterans' military caskets - attached #2.

Initially this bill had \$2,800,000 to purchase 1000 caskets. It would be appreciated if the appropriations committee would amend it back to the original amount. I've talked to some of the Veterans' and they hope you don't bury this bill.

**Senator Stan Lyson, District 1, Williston**, a bill sponsor, testified in favor of SB 2264. I am a veteran of the US army and the commander of the firing squad for military funerals in Williston since 1963. Our veterans shouldn't have to be buried in a welfare casket.

**Senator Dick Dever, District 32, Chairman of Senate Government & Veteran Affairs**,  
Testified in favor of SB 2264.

The bill began with about \$2.6m to provide military caskets for every veteran in the next biennium. The concern in Government and Veteran Affairs was that amount of money, for all veterans, was more ambitious than what appropriations would look favorably upon. What is really important is that no veteran be buried in a welfare casket. We'd be appreciative of any increase.

**Senator Robinson:** The bill was 1000 caskets at \$2800. Where did that number come from?

**Sen. Dever:** He was looking at the Marine Corps casket. The army has a lower priced one in the book. There are approx. 60,000 veterans in the state of ND.

**Senator Carlisle:** If we did the 50, we'd have a window to know how many people use it.

**Sen. Dever:** If a veteran passes away and their family doesn't have the money, they would contact their veteran's service officer and through that process make an application to have it funded.

**Chairman Holmberg** Did you contemplate how the process might work? The window of operation on this is very short. One isn't going to wait for a long period of paperwork to decide whether they get casket x or the welfare casket. Do you see the Veterans Service officers being able to be very quick? My fear is it would take weeks.

**Sen. Dever:** I think funeral home directors would have to be engaged in the process and I think they would want to participate in the process.

**Senator Kilzer** referred to the wording in the 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment - *who would otherwise be provided a welfare casket*. Does that mean this person has to be on Medicaid?

**Sen. Dever** We might have to seek advice from others.

**Senator Kilzer** It reads that the person would have to qualify by some process. Especially if there is no evidence that the person who died is a resident of the state.

**Sen. Dever** We'd welcome any improvements to the bill.

**V. Chairman Bowman:** I'd never expect a casket to be bought for me. It's different if you can't afford it. I don't know how it would work.

**Sen. Dever:** That was part of the consideration in our committee as well. Our first priority should be those who can't pay for it themselves.

**Chairman Holmberg** suggested Council legal staff check the language based on Senator Kilzer's comments. We can't sit on the bill forever. If something comes to us quickly we might be able to do something.

**Senator Kilzer** The starting point I would think about would be verification from the military service that the deceased has a DD-214.

**Senator Robinson** Under the present situation, there has to be a determination of a welfare casket or not. If we check the language, we should be able to come up with something in short order.

**Chairman Holmberg** If the individual was qualified for a welfare casket and if there was a way to assure that the individual was a veteran - from funeral home.

**Senator Erbele** as far as qualifying, is there anything like rank or length of service that would preclude having a welfare casket? The reason I'm asking, a constituent said, "I'll never have to worry about funeral expenses because I've been in the Guard for 23 years."

**Sen. Dever:** I don't know if DD-214 is the best way to verify qualification.

**Chairman Holmberg** We don't want to over engineer this bill.

**Sen. Dever:** When we sent this up - find out who drafted the amendment.

**Senator Robinson** wondered if we are the first state that's moving down this road or if there are similar situations out there that we could capture the intent in SD or what have you. We don't want to re-invent the wheel if there is a protocol out there that's in place.

**Brenda Bergsrud, Women & Minority Veteran's Coordinator**

Some of the counties in other states have a stipend that they give to a veteran who passes away. She told a personal story of when her uncle passed away in Montana. The funeral director took care of everything, verified his time in service and sent a check for a stipend to go toward his funeral expense.

The wording about "welfare" caskets - keep in mind our younger veterans who maybe don't qualify for welfare under our state law. **Don't disclude them.**

**Chairman Holmberg** we may have to throw up our hands, pass the bill and let the policy committee in the House work out details that more accurately affect what the goals are of the bill.

**Senator Wanzek** Anyone killed in action, we buy those caskets?

**Sen. Dever:** Yes, the federal government.

There was no further testimony.

**Chairman Holmberg** closed the hearing on SB 2264

# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
02-15-2013  
Job # 19052

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature
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### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Bill for veterans' military caskets (DO NOT PASS)

### Minutes:

Vote
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**Chairman Holmberg** called the committee to order. All committee members were present.

**Senator Mathern** - Explains the bill that came into the Senate dealing with a certain type of casket for veterans. He said it has come with a lot of policy questions and he proposes an amendment. He suggests that all the policy questions be put together and put in the hands of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. He goes on to say that office has the interest of the veterans in mind and also the processes in place to make determinations. The amendment 13.0786.02 changes the amount from \$50,000 to \$500,000. He says this would only be \$250 per veteran or establish some criteria to give some additional benefits to those who have no income and no benefits for those with high incomes.

**Senator Mathern moves amendment 13.0786.02001. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Warner.**

**Senator Mathern** thinks this may need more work but believes focusing all these questions to one office will get that office to work and they may come together in the House with more specific criteria. Senator Holmberg believes the increase from \$50,000 to \$500,000 is very chilling. Senator Carlisle says he can support the \$50,000. Senator Krebsbach wonders this fits in with the Medicaid allowance that is for burial. Senator Mathern responds that this is the rationale for the amendment; this would say that the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs would establish the criteria.

### Verbal vote on the amendment

**No vote carries, amendment fails**

**Vice Chairman Bowman moves a do not pass. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Gary Lee .**

**Vice Chairman Bowman** says he is a veteran himself but would like to see more emphasis put on programs to help the veterans who need it today rather than worry about a casket. Senator Gary Lee adds that Senator Bowman makes a very good point. He said the casket idea is very nice but feels it's not the necessary thing to do.

**Chairman Holmberg called for a roll call vote on a Do Not Pass on SB 2264.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 8; Nay: 5; Absent: 0.**

**Vice Chairman Bowman will carry the bill.**

The hearing was closed on SB 2264.

Date: 2-15-13

Roll Call Vote # 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0786.02001

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Mathern Seconded By Warner

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Ray Holmberg			Senator Tim Mathern		
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman			Senator David O'Connell		
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg			Senator Larry Robinson		
Senator Ralph Kilzer			Senator John Warner		
Senator Karen Krebsbach					
Senator Robert Erbele					
Senator Terry Wanzek					
Senator Ron Carlisle					
Senator Gary Lee					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No ✓

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Voice vote failed*

Date: 2-15-13

Roll Call Vote # 2

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do NOT Pass

Motion Made By Bowman Seconded By Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Ray Holmberg	✓	✓	Senator Tim Mathern		✓
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman	✓	✓	Senator David O'Connell		✓
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg	✓		Senator Larry Robinson		✓
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓		Senator John Warner		✓
Senator Karen Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Robert Erbele	✓				
Senator Terry Wanzek	✓				
Senator Ron Carlisle	✓	✓			
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 5

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Bowman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2264, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed SB 2264 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2013 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SB 2264**

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
March 7, 2013  
19604

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for veterans' military caskets.

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Jim Kasper** opened the hearing on SB 2264.

**Senator Marcellais** appeared in support and as a sponsor of this bill. **Attachment 1.** (:50-4:29)

**Rep. Bill Amerman** With it reduced to \$50,000 and if it gets used up throughout the next biennium, to keep this program going, would you have to come back to legislature to get more appropriation?

**Senator Marcellais** After I thought about the bill, I thought about instead of purchasing caskets, maybe we should give the families a bonus. I know \$50,000 won't go far.

**Rep. Bill Amerman** If we use that \$50,000 this biennium for the caskets and we want to get more caskets, somebody is going to have to keep coming back to appropriate more money for more caskets. Is that correct?

**Senator Marcellais** That is correct.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Where did that number 1,000 come from?

**Senator Marcellais** I found that number on the internet. They said there was 500 each year that was passing on in the state of North Dakota. That is an estimate.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Of those who are passing away, are they all indigent and unable to pay for caskets?

**Senator Marcellais** The original bill started out with all veterans.

**Rep. Marie Strinden** 50,000 divided by the 2,800 would be about 17.857 caskets per biennium. Do you know about how many veterans are passing away that need welfare caskets?

**Senator Marcellais** No, I don't. Welfare has nothing to do with it. A veteran is a veteran, so I see it for all veterans of North Dakota.

**Rep. Marie Strinden** If the bill stays the way it is and this provision would be for just the welfare caskets, I would be interested to know how many veterans are being buried in welfare caskets every biennium to see if the \$50,000 is in line. Is that a number you could get us?

**Senator Marcellais** You can get that from human services. In fact, I think they increased their appropriation for caskets this last session. I can't tell you what that is right now.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** Do you know what the cost of a normal welfare casket is? We know what the cost of these are.

**Senator Marcellais** No, I don't but I could find out through human services.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** I have a little bit of knowledge about the veterans' cemetery, and basically if you bury someone out there, I think it was a cost of \$800. They provide the headstone and then you would still have to go through the process of purchasing a casket along with the vault. This is just for the purchase of a casket, so we know the expenses that the family incurs is far greater than that. In addition to that, the family members are also entitled to be buried out there with their loved one. I am just wondering if at the point of your vision, did that incorporate that too down the road or is it just for the casket for the veterans?

**Senator Marcellais** Yes, I did. The federal government gives the state cemetery \$700 per plot to maintain that. That takes care of practically the \$800 that you are talking about. You can get a headstone or a footstone through the US government for free. You can get a signed certificate of the death of a veteran from the President of the United States. The Native Americans are starting to have their own veterans' cemeteries.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** Would you be able to use it in Rosebud then if the veterans are then moved to a different, not the veterans' cemetery per se, the state ones?

**Senator Marcellais** They have an agreement with the federal government that they can set up their own veterans' cemetery. It is identified through an agreement, and anytime they bury a Native American veteran there, they receive the \$700 a year after that.

**Rep. Gary Paur** I don't believe funeral homes can order these caskets. They have to be on hand. Correct?

**Senator Marcellais** As it states in the testimony, they can get it to you within two to four days. You order them from Philadelphia. They ship them to the funeral home that you are dealing with.

**Senator Dever** appeared in support and as a sponsor of this bill. Over in the senate GVA the bill started out with \$2.6 million to cover the cost of a military veteran for every veteran that dies in North Dakota in the next two years. We thought that amount of money was pretty ambitious. We thought the real concern is those veterans who die without the resources to have a proper burial and to be buried in a welfare casket after you have served our country particularly when you have been decorated is a great tragedy. We amended it down to where we thought it would be more appropriate.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** Did you see the pictures of the military caskets.

**Senator Dever** I did and I am hurt that the Marine casket is more attractive and expensive than the Army casket.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** Is this the price available for all the veterans who pass away for the families to purchase at these prices?

**Senator Dever** I think you would find advertisements for those kinds of things in the VFW, Legion, and other magazines that anybody could order that. I think funeral homes would probably be pretty supportive of the bill because they end up dealing with funerals where they don't have the resources. I think they also have access to those kinds of caskets. You might want to visit with Rep. Nathe, the owner of Bismarck Funeral Home. He could provide some real insight.

**Rep. Bill Amerman** What is the cost of a welfare casket?

**Senator Dever** We didn't really discuss that specifically in our committee. I know there are federal benefits available for veterans to assist. It seems to me we talked about \$500 to help pay for the funeral.

**Vice Chair Randy Boehning** I texted Rep. Nathe. It is between \$295 and \$495 for a welfare casket.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** In our area in the eastern part of the state, it is \$2,325 for a full burial plus plot if needed and \$1,800 for cremation. What is a welfare casket?

**Senator Dever** Another approach might be for the state to provide a benefit as the federal government does to add another \$500 to the \$500 that they provide or the cost of the lowest priced casket which I think is not specific to a branch of service.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** When the bill was switched to \$50,000, it was more of an indigent need based type thing. Do you have another answer or do you have information that fills in that gap for us?

**Senator Dever** I think you are right that there are a lot of questions with this. It is a new program. Two years from now we would be a lot smarter about how it went. I am not sure that there exists anywhere the kind of information that we would need to be able to make that determination now.

**Opposition:**

**Gary Maddock, Secretary of ND Veterans' Coordinating Council**, appeared in opposition to this bill. It doesn't mention if the veteran was honorably or dishonorably discharged. I agree with Senator Marcellais with that we are all veterans. Welfare is someone that could be on Medicaid. If a young soldier gets out of the service and is killed in a car accident or any type of accident, he may not be on Medicaid, but he may be a welfare candidate. This doesn't cover that. I don't think there is verbiage.

**Rep. Marie Strinden** Do you know what the requirements are for a welfare casket?

**Gary Maddock** No.

**Rep. Gary Paur** This bill strikes me as rather impractical the way it sits now. Is there another place this would fit in?

**Gary Maddock** I don't know the answer. I think that it would go more under human services.

**Rep. Steven Zaiser** Would you be opposed to this bill if it were amended to say honorably discharged?

**Gary Maddock** I would still be opposed to it because of that welfare casket in there. All veterans should get the same credit.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Regardless of financial status, every veteran should be entitled to a veteran's casket is what you are saying?

**Gary Maddock** Correct.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** If this bill provided a military casket for every veteran who was honorably discharged who died in North Dakota, that is what you would like to see in the bill. Otherwise, you don't like the bill?

**Gary Maddock** That is correct. Of course, I realize that \$50,000 wouldn't come close to it. Just in our Am Vets post every year, we have 30-35 deaths.

**Neutral:**

**Jack McDonald, Funeral Directors Association**, appeared in a neutral position. The term welfare casket is a little bit misleading. Each county is authorized by state law to make a determination of how much they are going to pay a person that is impoverished or on Medicaid for that funeral. Each county varies. The maximum is \$3,000. They first go to the person's family to see if there are any family members that can pay for the funeral. If there is no family member, then they go through the Medicaid determination to see if this person would qualify for Medicaid, and if that is the case, then they allow the funeral. The funeral is done by the funeral home in that area. They usually order the caskets from one

or two casket companies. I imagine the funeral homes could order from the company that Senator Marcellais referred to.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** Would you provide us with a representation of what is provided to somebody to see what is deemed to be respectful?

**Jack McDonald** Yes. I can also provide a list of what each county provides for a pauper's funeral.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Our funeral directors are very cognizant of the respectfulness. They take great pains to make sure that what they offer is something they feel will be very respectful to families. It would be interesting to see how that compares with other parts of North Dakota.

The hearing was closed.

A subcommittee was formed consisting of Rep. Boehning as chair, Rep. Koppelman, and Rep. Amerman.

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2264

March 15, 2013

No recording #

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for veterans' military caskets.

### Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Minutes for House GVA subcommittee on SB 2264.

March 15, 2013 11:10-11:50 am Ft. Union Room

In attendance: Rep. Randy Boehning -chair, Rep. Amerman, Rep. B. Koppelman

Topic: The need for the money for caskets. Subcommittee had concerns on how many are in need.

Rep. Koppelman made a motion to recommend to the committee for a do not pass to this bill.

Rep. Amerman seconded the motion.

Motion carried for a do pass on the recommendation of a do not pass.

Subcommittee minutes taken by Rep. Boehning.

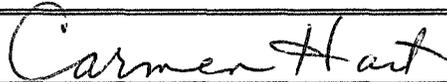
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2264  
March 28, 2013  
20635

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for veterans' military caskets.

## Minutes:

Attachment 1

**Chairman Jim Kasper** opened the session on SB 2264.

**Attachment 1** was provided by Jack McDonald. This had been requested of him at the March 7 hearing.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** That is the one we had the subcommittee on for the military caskets.

**Vice Chair Randy Boehning** The subcommittee met a couple of times. We don't know the number of veterans that need the casket and the coordination of it all. The cost of the caskets that was proposed was about \$3,000. The committee came to a consensus that it would be really hard to do. We recommended a do not pass.

**Rep. Vernon Laning** The veterans actually testified against it also.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** Our subcommittee all agreed that we should recommend to you all to do a do not pass on this bill. If there are further things that need to be addressed in terms of pauper funerals, that should probably be dealt with by counties and/or health and human services in a broader sense. This bill that came to us was very different from the intent of the original bill which was to provide a casket for all veterans if they die. When it came to us, it was just for those that had needs base.

**Rep. Bill Amerman** I have always been very impressed at the time and the consideration we give all the veteran bills. This one is tough. You were very kind to form a subcommittee to do the best thing. I think we all knew it was going to be a very difficult decision to try and come up with anything, and I thank you for putting me on the subcommittee. I will be voting no for it on the floor, probably with a heavy heart, but I will have a clear conscience when I vote for it.

**Rep. Ben Koppelman** made a motion for a Do not pass.

**Rep. Bill Amerman** seconded.

**Rep. Gail Mooney** When I first saw this, I thought, too, that this needs to go through human services and needs to be a part of the county portion. If we would have gone through with this, there would have been some serious overlaps in how the functionality would have worked on a local level. You have social services that deal with one thing, and the vso deals with another. When Senator Marcellais was in and speaking to the condition of that casket, that really is a county issue. In human services if we were looked to providing additional funding for veterans, maybe in that particular arena they would have additional funding they could look at to upgrade a veteran's service.

**Rep. Bill Amerman** When an indigent veteran has a funeral, there will be a color guard and a flag.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** If the individual is a veteran and they are buried at the veterans' cemetery and they are poor, they could still bury him in a casket such as this? There is no regulations that say they can't use this?

**Rep. Bill Amerman** I am not sure if it goes to the county. If a veterans' organization felt for some reason they wanted to buy it, they can get a casket.

**Rep. Karen Rohr** I just hope they wouldn't deny the veteran just because he was poor.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** They will always have a casket. The question is will it be a little fancier one or will it be a little moderate?

**Rep. Gail Mooney** Rep. Rohr, that question actually goes to the funeral home. The county provides the dollars, and then it is up to the funeral home itself to actually help the family decide what it is that they would like to have. Most of the funeral homes in North Dakota have a pretty clear conscience about wanting to provide the best that they possibly can

**Rep. Karen Rohr** I thought maybe the fact that they were limited in dollars that there might be a regulation at the cemetery that says you can't go.

**Chairman Jim Kasper** That never happens.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **DO NOT PASS, 13-0, 1 ABSENT**. **Rep. Ben Koppelman** is the carrier.

Date: 3-28-13  
 Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2264**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Amerman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden	X	
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser		
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment B. Koppelman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2264, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2264 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.**

**2013 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2264**

**Testimony**

**Senate Bill No. 2264 – to provide an appropriation to the  
Adjutant General for veteran military caskets  
Government Veterans Affairs (GVA) Committee  
Senator Dever, Chairman  
February 7, 2013**

**Chairman Dever, members of the GVA Committee, for the record is my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.**

**Senate Bill 2264 would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.**

**I will pass around this binder which identifies 10 different Veterans Military Caskets.**

**The caskets identified in this binder are:**

**United States Veteran Casket; In Honor of Your Service; Air Force Art Casket; Korean War Art Casket; Love and Honor Military Casket; Marine Corp Art Casket; Patriot Eagle Casket; U.S. Army Art Casket; U.S. Coast Guard Art Casket  
U. S. Navy Art Casket**

**In honor of all those who have served & especially to those who have fallen to protect our freedoms, may they rest in peace.**

**Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Bill # 2264. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.**

# Introduction

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These benefits are legislated in Title 38 of the United States Code. This booklet contains a summary of these benefits effective Jan. 1, 2011. For additional information, visit the VA Web page at [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/).

La versión en español de este folleto se encuentra disponible en formato Adobe Acrobat a través de el link: [www1.va.gov/opa/feature/index.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/index.asp).

## General Eligibility

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Generally, men and women veterans with similar service may be entitled to the same VA benefits.

Dishonorable and bad conduct discharges issued by general courts-martial may bar VA benefits. Veterans in prison and parolees must contact a VA regional office to determine eligibility. VA benefits will not be provided to any veteran or dependent wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.

## Certain VA Benefits Require Wartime Service

Certain VA benefits require service during wartime. Under the law, VA recognizes these war periods:

**Mexican Border Period:** May 9, 1916, through April 5, 1917, for veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders or in adjacent waters.

**World War I:** April 6, 1917, through Nov. 11, 1918; for veterans who

# Chapter 1

## VA Health Care Benefits

VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliary, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities. For additional information on VA health care, visit: [www.va.gov/health](http://www.va.gov/health).

### *Basic Eligibility*

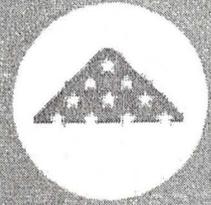
A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

**Minimum Duty Requirements:** Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

### *Enrollment*

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment. To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, on line at [www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/) or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system are afforded privacy rights under federal law. VA's Notice of Privacy Practices, which describes how VA may use and disclose veterans' medical information, is also available on line at [www.va.gov/vhapublications/viewpublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1089](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/viewpublication.asp?pub_ID=1089)



## BURIAL

## BURIAL AND PLOT-INTERMENT ALLOWANCES

### WHAT ARE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCES

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or interment allowance.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

*You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:*

- you paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**
- you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, **AND**
- the Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

*In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:*

- the Veteran died because of a service-related disability, **OR**
- the Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- the Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- the Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
- or the Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**
- the Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**
- the Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

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## HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

**Service-Related Death.** VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some of all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

**Non-service-Related Death.** For deaths on or after October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$700.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700.00 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300.00 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300.00 plot-interment allowance. The plot-interment allowance is \$150.00 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some of all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed. An annual increase in burial and plot allowances, for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011, begins in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

## HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Benefits*. You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. You may download the form at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

## RELATED BENEFITS

VA National Cemetery Burials / Headquarters and Markers / Presidential Memorial Certificates / Burial Flags





**Headstones, Markers and Medallions**

**General Information**



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for interment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

**Important Links**

[Eligibility for a Headstone, Marker or Medallion](#)

[Ordering a Headstone, Marker or Medallion](#)

[Types of Headstones, Markers and Medallions Available](#)

[Replacement Headstones and Markers](#)

[Pre-World War I Era Headstones and Markers](#)

[Headstone and Marker Inscription Abbreviations](#)

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

**Setting Government Headstones and Markers**

Cemetery staff in national, military post, and military base cemeteries are responsible for setting the headstone or marker at no cost to the applicant. Some state Veterans' cemeteries may charge the applicant a nominal fee for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker.

Arrangements for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all placement costs are at private expense.

**Cleaning and Caring for Government Headstones and Markers**

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training completed a study in 2011 to evaluate general cleaning needs of marble government-issued headstones. The findings are found in [Best Practice Recommendations for Cleaning Government-Issued Headstones](#).\* For more information, see: <http://ncptt.nps.gov/best-practice-recommendations-for-cleaning-government-issued-marble-headstones>.\*

**Checking Status of a Headstone, Marker or Medallion Request**

If more than 30 days have passed since your claim was submitted to the VA in Washington, D.C. by you, or someone assisting you, please call our Applicant Assistance Unit to verify we are in receipt of your claim.

If more than 60 days have passed since submitting your claim and the grave is still not marked, you should contact the cemetery, funeral home, or other party responsible for accepting delivery of the headstone, marker or medallion to see if they have received it. If they have not received it, you may call our Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at **1-800-697-6947**.

You may also click on the "Contact Us" link to check the status of your order.

**Please Note:** The above telephone number is for questions related to headstones, markers and medallions only.

For assistance in obtaining veterans' records or for information on other VA benefits, please call your local Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at **1-800-827-1000** or click on "Contact Us" above.

**Memorial Headstones and Markers**

Memorial headstones and markers, for individuals or groups, are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

Memorial headstones and markers may also be furnished in national, military post/base or state Veterans cemeteries to eligible spouses whose remains are unavailable for interment, whether or not they predecease the eligible Veteran.

These headstones and markers bear an "In Memory of" inscription, as their first line and must be placed in a recognized cemetery.

Memorial headstones and markers for spouses and other dependents are not available for placement in private cemeteries.

[VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#), must be submitted to request a memorial marker.

\* **NOTE:** Link will take you outside the Department of Veterans Affairs web site.

[Download Plugins](#)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - 810 Vermont Avenue, NW - Washington, DC 20420  
Reviewed/Updated Date: January 3, 2013

office of management and budget for signature by the state auditor and state treasurer in accordance with such approved vouchers.

**37-01-39.1. Unit funds - Maintenance and expenditure.**

Each unit of the North Dakota national guard, upon approval of the adjutant general, is authorized to maintain a nonreverting unit fund for purposes as prescribed by federal law and regulations relating to unit funds of the federal military forces and to pay petty operating, equipment, and supply costs incurred by the individual units. All funds transferred by the adjutant general to the unit fund must be deposited in the unit fund and are hereby appropriated for the maintenance and operation of the unit funds. Unit funds may be expended upon authorization of the unit fund custodian designated by the adjutant general under guidelines established by the adjutant general.

**37-01-40. Veteran and wartime veteran defined - Uniform service dates for wartime veterans.**

1. A "veteran" is an individual who has served on continuous federalized active military duty for one hundred eighty days or the full period for which the individual was called or ordered to active military duty for reasons other than training, and who was discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions. A discharge reflecting "expiration of term of service" or "completion of required service" or words to that effect qualifies the shorter term of service as making the individual a veteran.
2. A "wartime veteran" is an individual who served in the active military forces, during a period of armed conflict or who received the armed forces expeditionary or other campaign service medal during an emergency condition and who was discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions. "Wartime veteran" also includes an individual who died in the line of duty in the active military forces, as determined by the armed forces.
3. Period of service dates for a wartime veteran begins with the date of any declaration of war by the Congress of the United States or presidential proclamation beginning hostilities or the beginning of an emergency condition recognized by the issuance of a presidential proclamation or a presidential executive order and in which the armed forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to presidential executive order and ending on a date prescribed by presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Congress of the United States and dates determined by the United States department of defense.
4. Current uniform period of service dates for periods of armed conflict include:
  - a. The period beginning December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946, known as world war II;
  - b. The period beginning June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955, known as the Korean war;
  - c. The period beginning August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975, known as the Vietnam war;
  - d. The period beginning August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992, known as the gulf war; and
  - e. The period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on a date prescribed by presidential proclamation or by Congress as the last day of operation Iraqi freedom or operation enduring freedom, whichever occurs later.
5. The department of veterans' affairs shall maintain a list of all period of service dates for emergency conditions in which the armed forces expeditionary medal has been awarded.

**37-01-41. Claims against the national guard.**

1. Any individual injured by an activity of the North Dakota national guard may submit a claim to the adjutant general. As used in this section, "claim" means a monetary

*Sen. Richard Marcellais #1*

*SB 2264*

*Testimony 2-14-13*

**Senate Bill 2264 – to provide an appropriation to purchase veteran  
military caskets  
Appropriation Committee  
Senator Holmberg, Chairman  
February 14, 2013**

**Chairman Holmberg, members of the Appropriation Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.**

**Senate Bill 2264 would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.**

**I will pass around this binder which identifies 10 different Veterans Military Caskets.**

**The caskets identified in this binder are:**

**United States Veteran Casket; In Honor of Your Service; Air Force Art Casket; Korean War Art Casket; Love and Honor Military Casket; Marine Corp Art Casket; Patriot Eagle Casket; U.S. Army Art Casket; U.S. Coast Guard Art Casket; U.S. Navy Art Cask et.**

**In honor of all those who have served & especially to those veterans who have fallen to protect our countries freedoms, may they rest in pease.**

**Initially Senate Bill 2264, had the sum of \$2,800,000 to purchase 1000 veteran military caskets at \$2800 each over the biennium. I believe that our North Dakota veterans are entitled to this after serving the United States of America. It would be appreciated if the Appropriations Committee would consider to amend Senate Bill 2264 back to its original amount.**

**Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Bill 2264. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.**

*Sen. Richard Marcellais*  
2-14-13

#  
2

**SB 2264**

**VETERANS  
MILITARY  
CASKETS**

**SENATE BILL NO. XXXX**  
**Mr. Timothy J. Dawson**

Introduced by: Senator Marcellais

A BILL to pay for all North Dakota Veterans Military Caskets:

United States Veteran Casket (\$1,399.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$1,399,970

In Honor of Your Service - Veterans Casket (\$1,677.76) Est. 1,000 = \$1,677,760

Air Force Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

Korean War Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

Love and Honor Military Casket (\$1,299.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$1,299,970

Marine Corp Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

Patriot Eagle Casket (\$1,699.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$1,699,970

US Army Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

US Coast Guard Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

US Navy Art Casket (\$2,797.97) Estimate 1,000 = \$2,797,970

Overall Appropriations \$2.8 Million for all Veterans in North Dakota

Attached are pictures of each casket mentioned above.

If there are any questions please call: 550-1728 or email [Rmarcellais@nd.gov](mailto:Rmarcellais@nd.gov)



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## A United States Veteran Casket

Product Code: SC1979VET

Typical Price: ~~\$3199.00~~

Our Price: \$1399.97

**Description:** Truly a Tribute with Dignity - Quality Veteran's casket available to be shipped anywhere! Priced to make it available for almost any family in America!

Proudly MADE IN THE USA! SPECIAL - We offer full color embroidered, full size military emblems for all branches of service.

No where else will you find such a quality & dignified panel to honor your vet! Make sure to indicate on your order form which emblem - either a particular branch of service, or the standard wreath and ribbon shown in the picture.

A dignified selection for someone who served the USA! 20ga carbon steel with full locking and gasket protection.

Gunmetal finish with fine silver shading adorns the exterior along with quality Antiqued Metal handles all around the casket.

Silver crepe interior full tailored over an inner adjustable bed. The panel portrays the Red, White & Blue ribbons along with a Tribute Wreath and embroidery that proudly says United States Veteran!

Standard delivery(2-5 days depending on location) is \$75!

Overnight or Next Day shipping - \$350. Call us first.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. Funeral and Cemetery consulting available for no charge.

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www.GlobalDividends  
These stocks yield 12%, yet most US investors don't know they exist.



Air Force

### Air Force Art Casket

Product Code: WAF

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and US Flag all portray the dignity of our US Air Force. Breathtaking images!

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock.  
White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware.

Standard delivery (2-4 days depending on location) included for free!  
Overnight or special delivery available for an extra charge.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. Funeral and Cemetery consulting available for no charge.

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**Escape from America**

www.Sovereign-Invest  
 6 Places to Protect and Grow Your Wealth as US Spirals Out of Control

**In Honor of Your Service - Veterans Casket**

Product Code: PK18HN1

Typical Price: ~~\$4169.00~~

Our Price: \$1677.76

**Description:** Please call one of our consultants Toll Free at 1-888-782-2753 for answers to your questions.

A brushed blue finish highlights this high quality 18 gauge carbon steel selection. Adorned with the American flag on the hardware and interior panel. Steel brushing on the top and sides that truly make this selection a dignified choice.

Flag panel is shown but there are other choices if you wish that are no extra charge. We have the emblems for the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and the Airforce. Also available is a simple wreath that reads under it U.S. Veteran.

Please make a note on your order form for which panel you wish. If it is not noted, the flag panel shown will be used.

Complete gasket and locking construction. A fitting tribute for any Patriotic



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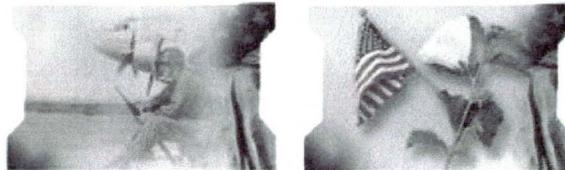
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## Korean War Art Casket

Product Code: WTKO

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** With images similar to the "Lost Patrol" images portrayed in Washing DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American her

Full 18 gauge steel with white crepe interior. Casket provided with hidden end lock  
Quality construction - **Made in the USA** - throughout the inside and outside!

Standard delivery(2-4 days depending on location)is included for Free! Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge. Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answ your questions.

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## Love and Honor Military Casket

Product Code: 102500

Typical Price: ~~\$2999.66~~

Our Price: \$1299.97

**Description: PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA!** Keep Americans working!

This simple yet honorable selection at this special low price provides ANY family to provide a casket that Honors their Service.

18 gauge American Steel for strength and comes with a full gasket and locking system

Military Swing bar handles w/Eagle corners  
Inside - White frost crepe with fully tailored adjustable bed

The panel shows a Fallen Flag with Red, White, Blue Ribbons, and Love & Honor for Very distinguished.

Standard shipping(2-5 days depending on location) is \$75. Overnight or Next Day - us first.

Call us Toll Free at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions!



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Marines

## Marine Corp Art Casket

Product Code: WMC

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** Proudly Made in the USA! Keep Americans working!

**Semper Fidelis** - This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabres crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the "raising of the flag", and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No cost Funeral and Cemetery consulting available to help your family.

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## Patriot Eagle Casket

Product Code: EVPAT11

Typical Price: ~~\$4253.00~~

Our Price: \$1699.97

**Description:** Proudly MADE IN AMERICA! Keep Americans working! Call our Consultants Toll Free at 1-888-782-2753 to have all your questions and concerns answered.

This high quality 18ga Carbon Steel selection is finished with a Light Blue brushing on the tops and sides, Midnight Blue shading and sturdy Swing bar handles on the sides and ends.

The panel is tailored with a unique American Eagle emblem, along with Eagle emblems on the corners. Also, a fully adjustable inner bed allows adjustment for someone of any regular size.

Standard shipping(2-5 days depending on location) is \$75! Overnight or Next Day - \$350. Call us First!



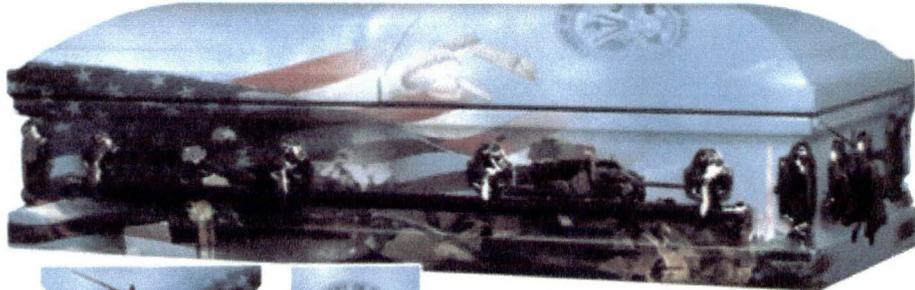
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Army

## US Army Art Casket



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Product Code: WUSA

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** Proudly Made in America by Americans! Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No charge Funeral and Cemetery consulting available upon request.

This selection allows you to Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good ol USA!

A battle tank, helicopter, US Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have "won the war".

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

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## US Coast Guard Art Casket

Product Code: WCG

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly Made in America by Americans working!

Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good ol USA!

As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard's role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of Coast Guard in action.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickel hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.



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recommendation that  
several top analysts  
agree on



Navy

## US Navy Art Casket

Product Code: WUSN

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

**Description:** Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly MADE IN AMERICA! Keep Americans working!

Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a US Flag along with a "Blue Angels" style fly over make this an unbelievable "Last Tribute" selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

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Testimony

**Senate Bill 2264** – to provide an appropriation to purchase veteran military caskets

House Government Veterans Affairs Committee

Representative Kasper, Chairman

March 7, 2013

Chairman Kasper, members of the House Government Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.

**Senate Bill 2264** would allow for the purchase of veterans military caskets depending on the branch of service.

Attached are caskets identified for each branch of service and the Koren War Art Casket:

**Air Force Art Casket** – Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good United States of America. The casket has Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and U.S. Flag all portray the dignity of our U.S. Air Force.

**U. S. Army Art Casket** – This selection allows us to Honor the time and sacrifice for our loved one gave to the United States of America. A battle tank, helicopter, U. S. Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have **“won the war”**.

**Marine Corp Art Casket** – This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabers crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the **“raising of the flag”**, and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

**U. S. Navy Art Casket** – Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a U. S. Flag along with a **“Blue Angels”** style fly over make this an unbelievable **“Last Tribute”** selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

**U. S. Coast Guard Art Casket** – As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard’s role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

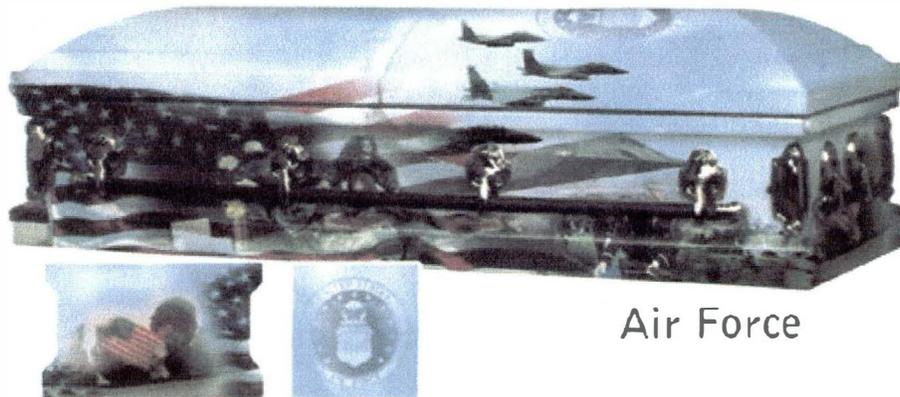
***Korean War Art Casket** – With images similar to the “**Lost Patrol**” images portrayed in Washington, DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.*

*In honor of all those who have served & especially to those veterans who have protect our countries freedoms, may they rest in peace. Caskets are for the dead and funerals are for the living.*

*Initially **Senate Bill 2264**, had the sum of **\$2,800,000** to purchase **1000** veteran military caskets at **\$2800** each over the biennium. I believe that our North Dakota veterans are entitled to this after serving the United States of America and this great state of North Dakota. It would be appreciated if the House Government Veterans Affairs Committee would consider amending **Senate Bill 2264** back to its original amount.*

*Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of **Senate Bill 2264**. I will try an answer any questions the committee may have.*

Toll Free Number  
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



Air Force

## Air Force Art Casket

### Description :

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

Fighter jets, a fighter pilot, Air Force emblem, and US Flag all portray the dignity of our US Air Force. Breathtaking images!

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock.  
White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware.

Standard delivery (2-4 days depending on location) included for free!  
Overnight or special delivery available for an extra charge.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. Funeral and Cemetery consulting available for no charge.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Toll Free Number  
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



## US Army Art Casket

### Description :

Proudly Made in America by Americans! Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No charge Funeral and Cemetery consulting available upon request.

This selection allows you to Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good of USA!

A battle tank, helicopter, US Army emblem, and United States Flag make this a fitting memorial tribute for our ground troops who have "won the war".

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

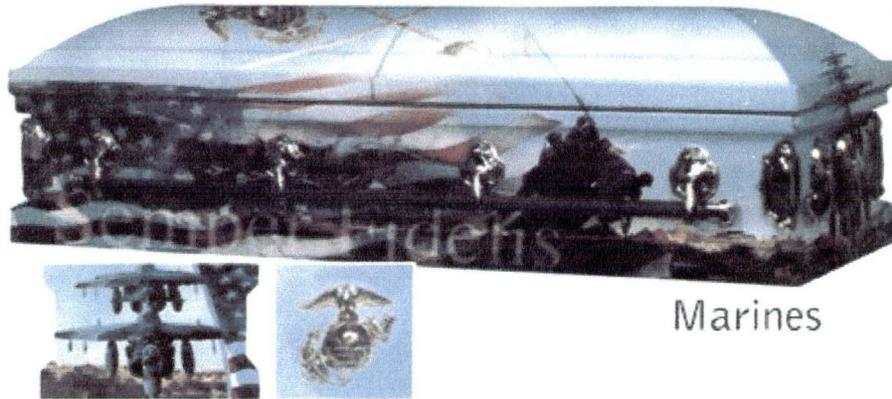
Our Price: \$2797.97

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Marines

## Marine Corp Art Casket

### Description :

Proudly Made in the USA! Keep Americans working!

**Semper Fidelis** - This casket says it all for those who have served in the Marine Corp. With sabres crossed, Marine Corp emblem, the "raising of the flag", and battle display, this is truly a tribute selection.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Honor the time and sacrifice that they gave to the good 'ol USA.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions. No cost Funeral and Cemetery consulting available to help your family.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

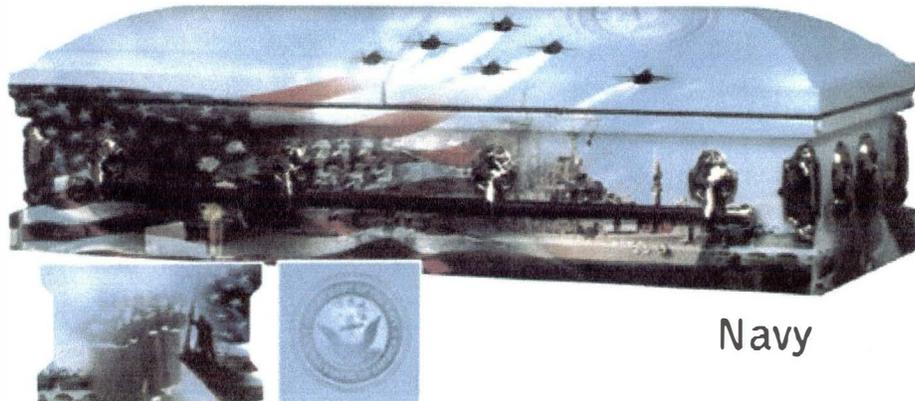
Our Price: \$2797.97

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Navy

## US Navy Art Casket

### Description :

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly MADE IN AMERICA!  
Keep Americans working!

Sailors in dress blues, a Navy destroyer, a US Flag along with a "Blue Angels" style fly over make this an unbelievable "Last Tribute" selection. Truly a breathtaking display.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles for easy carrying.

Standard shipping(2-4 days depending on location) is included in the price. Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Toll Free Number  
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



## US Coast Guard Art Casket

### Description :

Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for any questions. Proudly Made in America. Keep Americans working!

Honor the time and sacrifice your loved one gave to the good ol USA!

As our nation has grown, the Coast Guard's role as a lifesaver and guardian of the sea has expanded. You can celebrate the life of one such guardian with the heroic imagery of the Coast Guard in action.

18gauge steel complete with gasket & lock. White crepe interior with antique nickle hardware. Swing bar handles make for easy carrying.

Standard delivery (2-4 days depending on location) included for Free! Overnight or special delivery available with additional charges.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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Toll Free Number  
1-888-78-CASKET (1-888-782-2753)



## Korean War Art Casket

### Description :

With images similar to the "Lost Patrol" images portrayed in Washington DC, this casket provides a true tribute to a largely forgotten portion of American heroes.

Full 18 gauge steel with white crepe interior. Casket provided with hidden end lock device. Quality construction - Made in the USA - throughout the inside and outside!

Standard delivery(2-4 days depending on location)is included for Free! Overnight or special delivery is available for an extra charge. Call us at 1-800-550-7262 for answers to your questions.

Typical Price: ~~\$5995.00~~

Our Price: \$2797.97

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## Jack McDonald

2264

**From:** Nic Stevenson [nstevenson@ndsupemet.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 5:25 PM  
**To:** Jack McDonald; Jay Seibel @ NDFDA; Jon Stevenson  
**Subject:** Fwd: County Burial

Attachment 1

**Attachments:** image.jpeg; ATT00001.txt; County burial break down.docx



image.jpeg (76 KB)ATT00001.txt (252 County burial break  
B) down.docx ...

Jack and Jay

This is the basic outline we use for county burials. I have also attached a picture of the casket we provide for county burials. This can vary a little between counties. To generalize funeral homes lose money on each county case, regardless of what type of service is selected.

A few thoughts about the proposed bill:

Government issued or suggested caskets, for veterans killed in action, are always silver metal caskets. You will see that the one we provide is similar to this, maybe more basic but similar. They are not painted with Military scenes or murals as the ones suggested.

The logistics of ordering these caskets from a third party provider would provide many challenges, let alone trying to find the particular branch of service as suggested.

As a funeral provider donating services and merchandise for a county burial it's hard to see a third party provider receiving \$3,000.00 (double the states minimum allotment for all services and merchandise for a county burial) for a casket.

One suggestion

Provide \$2,000.00 to the funeral home for veterans who are eligible for county assistance. In turn, the funeral home must provide a silver metal casket.

This option would save the state money, eliminate the logistical nightmare of ordering from a third party and provide our veterans with a dignified casket, similar to the one their comrades would have used.

Let me know if you have any questions

Nic Stevenson

## County Burial — STARIC

When a family is qualified through the county social service department for funeral assistance the funeral home is paid between \$1,500 (State minimum) to \$2,500. In exchange we provide the following service options:

**Funeral Service/Memorial Service:** Held Monday through Friday, at our chapel.

**Visitation/Rosary/vigil service:** Held the day of the funeral

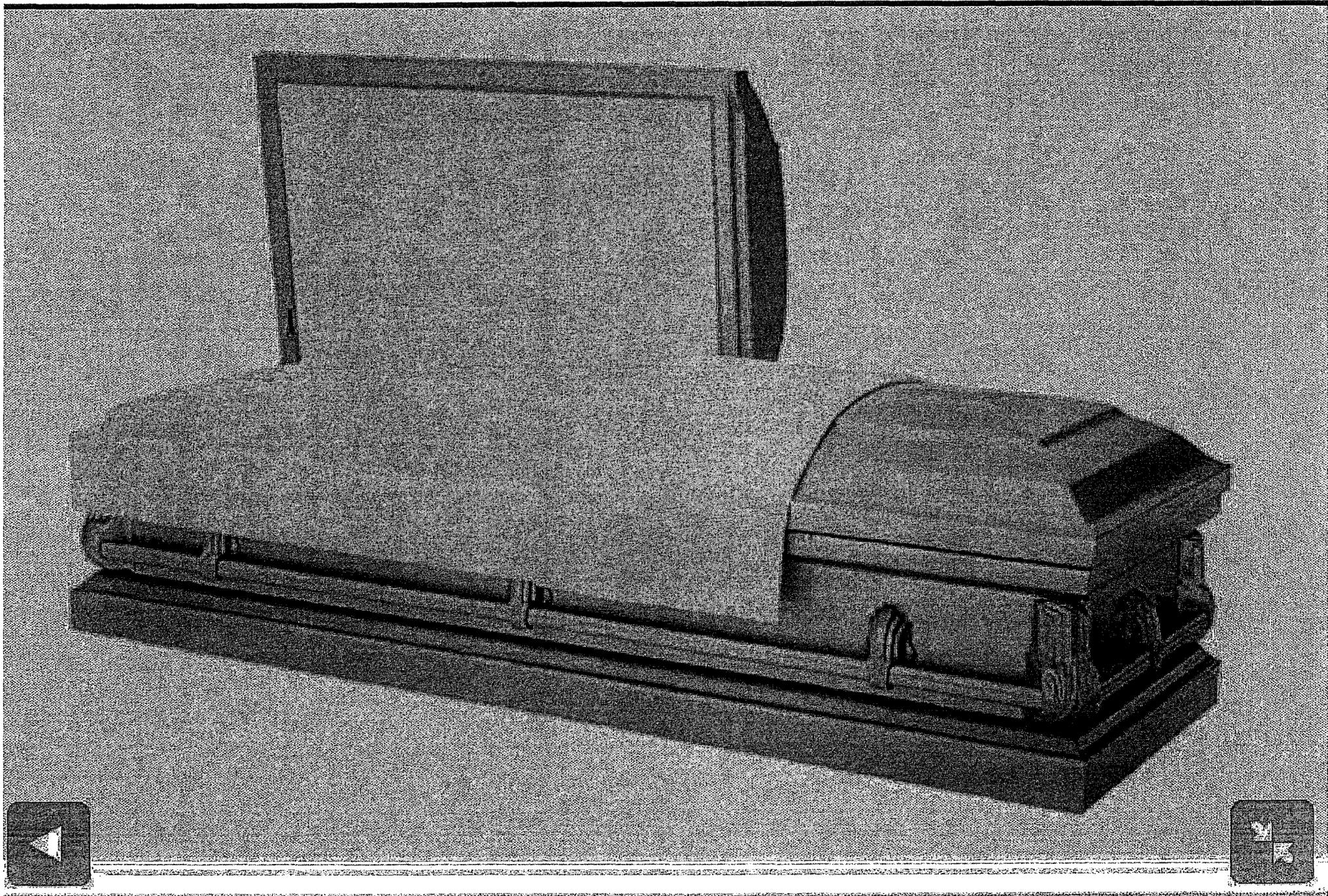
**Graveside/Committal Service:** Held at cemetery of family's choice on the day of the funeral

**Printed Materials:** Register book, Memorial cards (one picture), Thank you cards, temporary marker

**Casket:** 20 Gauge metal, Non-Sealed casket with neutral interior — See attached picture

**Vault:** Basic concrete box, suitable for minimum cemetery requirement

The total amount for the package listed above is \$7354.00. Due to the short fall in the amount provided from the county we discount our funeral service and merchandise \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 depending on the county and services selected.



**Barnes County Funeral Directors  
County Assisted Burial Program**

<b>Services</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Services With Burial</b>		
Funeral Home Charges	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,930.00
Casket: Batesville Newpoint	\$ 533.66	\$ 592.00 *
Wilbert Grave Liner: Minimal Set-up	\$ 511.19	\$ 731.00 *
Cemetery Lot	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00
County Recorder Fee:		\$ 10.00
Interment Fee:	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Open Close Grave	<u>\$ 450.00</u>	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
<b>Total Service With Burial</b>	<b>\$ 3,629.85</b>	<b>\$ 4,313.00</b>
<b>Services with Cremation</b>		
Funeral Home Charges	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,890.00
Open/Close Grave	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
County Recorder Fee:		\$ 10.00
Grave Space	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00
Interment Fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Cremation Container	\$ 240.00	\$ 260.00
Crematory Fee: Cremation Process	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00
Wilbert P-300 Urn Vault	\$ 131.25	\$ 140.00 *
Memorial Service (Billed @ 50% Normal)	<u>\$ 350.00</u>	<u>\$ 350.00</u>
<b>Total Service with Cremation</b>	<b>\$ 3,181.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,525.00</b>
<b>Infant Services</b>		
Infant Service with Burial		
Funeral Home Charges	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Wilbert Baby Casket/Vault Combo	\$ 367.50	\$ 420.00 *
Interment Fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
County Recorder Fee:		\$ 10.00
Open/Close Grave	<u>\$ 125.00</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
<b>Total Infant Burial</b>	<b>\$ 892.50</b>	<b>\$ 980.00</b>
Infant Cremation Service		
Funeral Home Charges	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Cremation Container	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00
County Recorder Fee:		\$ 10.00
Crematory Fee	\$ 125.00	\$ 175.00
Interment Fee	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<b>Total Infant Cremation Service</b>	<b>\$ 555.00</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>

A bit of history helps to understand this issue. From Dakota Territory days to 1933, the costs for burial of the poor fell to the local "overseer of the poor" with the county reimbursing him for his costs. The 1933 Legislature enacted the core of the current law and mandated payment of at least \$50 for such burials. This was increased in 1943 to \$75 and in 1947 to \$100. The 1949 Legislature added \$100 for transportation, making a total of \$200. While the transportation figure stayed the same, the burial went to \$150 in 1951, \$250 in 1959, and \$350 in 1969. In 1973, the costs were split out, with \$350 for burial, \$100 for transportation, \$80 for the grave box, \$50 for the grave, and \$50 for the grave opening, for a total of \$630.

These figures were gradually increased in bits and pieces in 1977, 1979, 1981, 1985, and 1989. In 1989, the law mandated payment of \$800 for burial, \$100 for transportation, \$235 for grave box, \$175 for the grave, and \$175 for the grave opening, for a total of \$1,485. These figures stayed the same through 1995.

So, from territorial days through 1995, the counties did not negotiate any burial costs. They simply paid what the law said they could. This is the mindset of many county commissions. The funeral directors had no say in what is paid. They just take what the county gives them.

In 1995, the legislature made a radical change in the law and abolished the list of specific costs. Instead, they said county commissions may negotiate with funeral directors or funeral homes on the costs, but that in no event could the amount paid be less than \$1,500, which was about what the specific list totaled at the time. The 1995 legislation was sponsored by Reps. Alice Olson of Cavalier (Pembina County – now \$2,000), Dave Monson of Oshtobock (Cavalier County - \$2,600), Chris Christopherson of Fargo (Cass County – now \$1,856) and Jane Gunter of Towner (McHenry County – now \$1,900).

I will check the legislative history of the 1995 legislation to see if there is any discussion about the negotiations, but my interpretation now is that the use of the word "may" means that if the county commission so chooses, it can simply determine an amount to be paid without negotiations as long as it isn't less than \$1,500. This is in keeping with how the counties operated for 100 years prior to 1995.

However, it appears many counties have chosen to negotiate. Figures from the Department of Human Services (DHS) indicate that as of 11/14/05 the highest amount paid is \$2,675 in Rolette County and \$2,600 in Cavalier County. The lowest is \$1,500 in Adams, Dunn, Kidder, and Stark Counties. The average is \$2,018. Williams County is \$2,200. I don't believe it has been changed since 1995.

COUNTY BURIAL COSTS COMPARISON	Revised Date 4/28/2003
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COUNTY	BURIAL COST	COMMENT	CREMATION	MISC.
Adams	1500		1000	
Barnes	2200		2200	Since 1995
Benson	2500		2500	Since 1995
Billings	2400		2400	
Bottineau	2000		1500	
Bowman	2000		2000	
Burke	2000		2000	
Burleigh	1890		1890	Thru 9/1/01
Cass	1856		1613	
Cavalier	2600		2600	
Dickey	1800		1800	New
Divide	1950		1950	
Dunn	1500		1500	
Eddy	1800		1800	
Emmons	2200		2200	Since 1995
Foster	1800		1800	
Golden Valley	1750		1750	No Fam. Contrib. ded.
Grand Forks	1600	No family contribution	1600	Plus out of Co. Mileage
Grant	1800	Plus out of Co. Mileage	1500	
Griggs	2075		1555	
Hettinger	1625		1625	Opening/closing/space
Kidder	1500		1500	Since 1995
LaMoure	1800		1800	
Logan	2000		2000	Since 11/2002
McHenry	1900	Cremation less then	1900	
McIntosh	1850		1850	Since 1995
McKenzie	2395		2395	
McLean	2200		2200	Since 1995
Mercer	2500		2500	Since 1995
Morton	2350		1900	150. opening /300 space
Mountrail	2250		1750	Since 1995
Nelson	2150		2150	
Oliver	1900		1900	250 opening/300 space
Pembina	2000		2000	
Pierce	2300	Cremation less then	2300	
Ramsey	2250		2250	Since 1995
Ransom	1900		1900	Since 2001
Renville	2000		2000	
Richland	2250		2250	Since 1995
Rolette	2675		Actual cost	
Sargent	1900		1900	Since 2001
Sheridan	1800		1800	Up from \$1625
Sioux	1995		1995	
Slope	2000		2000	
Stark	1500		1500	Since 1995
Steele	2075	Cremation \$495. within 48 hours	700	Plus \$200 first custody
Stutsman	2025		1700	11/1-4/1 burial +\$100.
Towner	2500		2500	Since 1995
Trail	2325	Cremation Less then	2325	
Walsh	2000	Plus grave space	1500	Since 1995
Ward	1800	Adult/\$1500 infant	1500	
Wells	1800		1800	
Williams	2200		2200	>Original
Average Costs of 53 Counties	2019		1863	