



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

December 5, 2024

Senator Jeanne Shaheen
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Shaheen and Sen. Crapo,

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) urges the Senate to pass the Bring Our Heroes Home Act (S.2315/H.R.3110) as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

A vast number of records relating to missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel have yet to be identified, located, transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), or even declassified. The Bring Our Heroes Home Act (BOHHA) is necessary to create an enforceable, independent, and accountable process for the public disclosure of records relating to the more than 81,000 missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel.

BOHHA would form a "Missing Armed Forces and Civilian Personnel Records Collection" within NARA, which has long coordinated and administered collections such as this one. APG fully supports this model. Congress must provide NARA with sufficient funding so it can provide the departments and agencies the support they will need to accomplish the goals of BOHHA. Furthermore, to ensure NARA's success, Congress must provide additional funding so NARA can support the additional workload of cataloging and storing documents to make records easily accessible for families who seek closure.

Founded in 1979, APG represents more than 2,000 genealogists worldwide, committed to preserving and disseminating historical information. Our members include small business owners who frequently research service members and their fates. BOHHA is a significant step towards telling missing soldiers' stories and honoring their memories.

APG respectfully urges Congress to pass the Bring Our Heroes Home Act, and to provide additional funding for NARA, so that it can fulfill its commitments and better serve families and researchers alike.

Sincerely,

John Boeren
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