

**STORAGE NAME:** h0905.prc.doc  
**DATE:** January 30, 2002

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PROCEDURAL COUNCIL  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HM 905  
**RELATING TO:** National Cemetery in Duval County  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Jordan and others  
**TIED BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) PROCEDURAL & REDISTRICTING COUNCIL
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

I. SUMMARY:

THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUING STATUTES, OR TO BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, DEFINING, LIMITING, CONTROLLING, SPECIFYING, CLARIFYING, OR MODIFYING ANY LEGISLATION OR STATUTE.

Deaths of veterans are expected to increase to over 600,000 by 2008. Florida, however, with the second largest population of veterans, has two remaining national cemeteries where veterans can be buried – Pensacola, which is nearing capacity, and Florida National, which is expected to close in 2025.

This memorial urges the President and Congress to direct the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to establish a national cemetery in Duval County, Florida, and requires transmitting copies of this memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 1990 census projects that annual veteran deaths are expected to peak at 620,000 in 2008 before beginning a gradual decline – a 10.5 percent increase from 561,000 deaths in 1999. In addition, according to the state's Department of Veteran's Affairs, veterans are dying at a rate of 1,000 a day nationally, of which one of every 10 is a Florida resident. There are currently over 1.7 million veterans in Florida, the second largest population of veterans in the nation.

At Florida's two smaller national cemeteries, Pensacola is nearing capacity and St. Augustine is full; Bay Pines in St. Petersburg is open only for cremated remains. Florida National in Bushnell is the remaining national burial plot, and is expected to be closed out by 2025. However, in 2000 Congress appropriated \$15 million to establish an additional national cemetery in South Florida.

According to the Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs, there are 325,000 veterans from Florida and Georgia living within 75 miles of Duval County. The nearest open national cemeteries are in Bushnell, Florida, 150 miles distant, and Marietta, Georgia, 365 miles distant.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

N/A

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Not required.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

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None

VII. SIGNATURES:

PROCEDURAL COUNCIL:

Prepared by:

Council Director:

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Paul Lowell, J.D.

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PK Jameson, J.D.