

Flight 293 Remembrance Act ***Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)***

Since World War II, hundreds of military personnel have been classified as "Missing Not In Action" (M-NIA) following non-combat plane crashes, including the tragic 1963 crash of a military aircraft traveling from McChord AFB to Elmendorf AFB. Unlike the families of those classified as "Missing in Action" (MIA), who receive regular updates and invitations to Department of Defense (DoD) events, M-NIA families have been left unsupported and excluded from these resources. The lack of a formal recognition system for M-NIA servicemembers has resulted in these families being denied the public acknowledgment, memorials, and support services they deserve. The *Flight 293 Remembrance Act* seeks to correct these disparities by ensuring that the sacrifices of M-NIA servicemembers are properly recognized, their families receive essential support, and they are included in annual remembrance efforts.

The *Flight 293 Remembrance Act* aims to provide overdue recognition and support to families of servicemembers lost in non-combat military plane crashes. The bill mandates the DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create a publicly accessible database documenting all non-combat military plane crashes, ensuring the preservation of the names, ranks, and service details of those who perished in these incidents. It also directs the DoD to enhance resources for M-NIA families, ensuring they are informed of available support services and included in memorials and public ceremonies. Furthermore, the bill requires the DoD to submit regular reports to Congress, evaluating the effectiveness of these efforts, gathering family feedback, and making recommendations for improving support. This legislation will ensure that the service of these fallen heroes is commemorated and that their families receive the recognition and assistance they deserve.

The bill is endorsed by Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), National Military Families Association (NMFA), and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Summary of the Flight 293 Remembrance Act

1. Identification and Documentation

- Directs the DoD, in collaboration with the VA, to review military records and identify all non-combat military plane crashes classified as "Operational Loss/Non-War Loss."
- Establishes a publicly accessible database with the names, ranks, and service details of all Armed Forces members who perished in such incidents.

2. Family Assistance

- Ensures that families of the deceased are informed of existing and new resources available to them.
- Collects and analyzes data to improve the delivery of assistance and support to these families.

3. Commemoration Efforts

- Recognizes the service of those lost in non-combat plane crashes through memorials, plaques, ceremonies, and public acknowledgments.
- Ensures these members are included in annual remembrance activities.

4. Reporting Requirements

- Mandates the DoD to submit a report to Congress that details:
 - The support provided to families,
 - Progress made in establishing the database,
 - The effectiveness of the Act's initiatives,
 - Feedback from families, and
 - Recommendations for legislative improvements to better serve these families.