

FACT SHEET

A NATIONAL MOMENT OF SILENCE ON VETERANS DAY

The United States does not have a national moment of silence to honor all veterans.

Michael and Daniel Bendetson, supported by their father, Dr. Peter Bendetson, are encouraging Congress to enact legislation providing for a national moment of silence, at the same time on Veterans Day each year, in honor of all Americans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



*Joint Services Color Guard,
U.S. National Archives.*

The moment of silence would bring together Americans of all religious, political, and ideological affiliations as a powerful symbol of our unity and common purpose, and provide an opportunity to reflect on veterans who have touched our lives.

- In 2010, the Bendetson family experienced Israel's Day of Remembrance, when that nation pauses for two minutes in remembrance of its veterans. Moved by the expression of a common purpose and national unity, Michael and Daniel Bendetson have sought to establish a similar tradition in the United States in honor of all U.S. veterans.
- After years of effort, the national moment of silence nearly became law in the last Congress. The moment of silence legislation passed the House twice, and a bipartisan amendment was set for consideration in the Senate when the session expired.
- This year, Representative Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) and Representative Charles Boustany (R-La.) reintroduced the bipartisan legislation in the House as H.R. 995. Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) reintroduce the legislation in the Senate as S. 1004.

The Bendetsons urge you to cosponsor the legislation and support the bipartisan effort to create a national moment of silence on Veterans Day.

The national moment of silence legislation is supported by the American Legion and the National Guard Association of the United States.

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<http://www.facebook.com/VetsDaySilence> <http://twitter.com/VetsDaySilence>

For additional information, please contact the Bendetsons' pro bono counsel, Brian D. Smith, Covington & Burling LLP, 202-662-5090 or bdsmith@cov.com.

SUPPORT THE LYNCH-BOUSTANY AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1735, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

- Representative Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) and Representative Charles Boustany (R-La.) have filed an amendment to add the moment of silence to H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.
- The House Rules Committee will determine whether to make the amendment in order for the House's consideration of the bill. Rules is expected to consider the amendment during its meeting on May 13, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. (amendment # 143 in the Rules Committee).
- Last year, the House approved a similar Lynch-Boustany amendment to the 2015 NDAA legislation. The provision was unfortunately not included in the final negotiated 2015 NDAA.

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**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

In division A, at the end of title X, insert the following:

- 1 **SEC. 1092. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.**
2 (a) **TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.**—Chapter 1 of title
3 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
4 the following new section:
5 “§ 145. Veterans Day
6 “The President shall issue each year a proclamation
7 calling on the people of the United States to observe two
8 minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service
9 and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Na-
10 tion, beginning at—
11 “(1) 3:11 pm Atlantic standard time;
12 “(2) 2:11 pm eastern standard time;
13 “(3) 1:11 pm central standard time;
14 “(4) 12:11 pm mountain standard time;
15 “(5) 11:11 am Pacific standard time;
16 “(6) 10:11 am Alaska standard time; and
17 “(7) 9:11 am Hawaii-Alentian standard time.”.

- (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections
2 for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following new item:
“145. Veterans Day.”.

