



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

Senate Passes Deputy Leader Gianaris' Bill To Provide Proper Burial For Veterans' Unclaimed Remains

MICHAEL GIANARIS March 10, 2023

| ISSUE: **VETERANS, VETERANS CEMETERIES, VETERANS SERVICES**



ALBANY, N.Y. – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris announced the State Senate passed his legislation ([S.454](#)) which gives New York’s veterans a dignified burial. The bill, which passed unanimously, requires affected counties and the city of New York to work with a veteran service organization to provide for the burial of a veteran whose remains are unclaimed.

“Those who served our country deserve a respectful funeral and burial,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**, whose grandfather and namesake was a U.S. Army veteran. “It is important our communities afford those who sacrificed the appropriate respect. I am proud to my Senate colleagues and I

support our veterans.”

Senator Gianaris’ legislation ensures unclaimed remains of veterans are afforded a dignified funeral and burial, even when veterans do not have a next-of-kin or the means to provide for their own burial. Local governments would work with a local veterans service organization, which would contract with a funeral home to provide these services.

“As a veteran myself, I fully support this legislation. A dignified burial honors the service and sacrifices of our veterans. I would be heartbroken if any of my fellow soldiers did not get a respectful burial. Thank you, Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris for sponsoring this important legislation and advocating on behalf of New York’s veterans,” said **Pedro Nieves**, a Queens resident and veteran who served in World War II and the Korean War. Nieves is a member of Sunnyside Community Services’ Center for Active Older Adults, and was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame by Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris in 2022.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S454

-
- Introduced
 - - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Directs counties and the city of New York to contact a veterans' organization to provide for the disposition of the unclaimed remains of a deceased veteran

January 03, 2023

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by Michael Gianaris

Do you support this bill?