

retary shall transmit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a copy of the report, together with any comments on the report that the Secretary considers appropriate."

GRAVE MARKERS IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS

Pub. L. 103-446, title VIII, §804, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4675, provided that: "Notwithstanding section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide for flat grave markers at the Willamette National Cemetery, Oregon."

Pub. L. 102-54, §11, June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 273, as amended by Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(2), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406, provided that: "Notwithstanding section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may provide for flat grave markers in that section of the Florida National Cemetery in which preplaced grave liners were installed before July 30, 1988."

Pub. L. 100-322, title III, §341(b), May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 539, as amended by Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(2), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406, provided that: "Notwithstanding section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, the Administrator may provide for flat grave markers in the cases of the national cemeteries in Riverside, California; Bourne, Massachusetts; Augusta, Michigan; and Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; and the proposed national cemetery approved by the Administrator, as of July 31, 1987, for Northern California."

FUNCTIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF SECRETARIES UNAFFECTED

Repeal of sections 271 to 276, 278 to 279d, 281 to 282, 286 to 290, and 296 of Title 24, Hospitals and Asylums, and enactment of provisions set out as notes under sections 271 to 276 of Title 24 without effect upon functions, powers, and duties of secretaries of the military departments with respect to cemeteries, memorials, or monuments under the jurisdiction of the secretary concerned to which the transfer provisions of section 6(a) of Pub. L. 93-43, set out as a note above, do not apply, see section 7(b) of Pub. L. 93-43, set out as a note under sections 271 to 276 of Title 24.

STUDIES; RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 93-43, §3, June 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 78, authorized the Administrator to conduct a comprehensive study concerning the criteria governing the development and operation of the National Cemetery System, including the concept of regional cemeteries, the relationship of the National Cemetery System to other burial benefits provided by Federal and State Governments to servicemen and veterans, steps taken to conform the existing system to the recommended criteria, private burial and funeral costs in the United States, current headstone and marker programs, and the marketing and sales practices of non-Federal cemeteries and interment facilities, and to submit his recommendations within twelve months after the convening of the first session of the Ninety-third Congress and also authorized the Administrator, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, to conduct a comprehensive study concerning the advisability of including Arlington National Cemetery within the National Cemetery System, the appropriateness of maintaining the present eligibility requirements for burial at Arlington National Cemetery and the advisability of establishing another national cemetery, and to submit the results of their joint recommendations within twelve months after the convening of the first session of the Ninety-third Congress.

§ 2405. Disposition of inactive cemeteries

(a) The Secretary may transfer, with the consent of the agency concerned, any inactive cemetery, burial plot, memorial, or monument within the Secretary's control to the Department of the Interior for maintenance as a national monument or park, or to any other agency of the Government. Any cemetery transferred to

the Department of the Interior shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a part of the National Park System, and funds appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for such system shall be available for the management and operation of such cemetery.

(b) The Secretary may also transfer and convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in or to any inactive cemetery or burial plot, or portion thereon, to any State, county, municipality, or proper agency thereof, in which or in the vicinity of which such cemetery or burial plot is located, but in the event the grantee shall cease or fail to care for and maintain the cemetery or burial plot or the graves and monuments contained therein in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary, all such right, title, and interest transferred or conveyed by the United States, shall revert to the United States.

(c) If a cemetery not under the control of the National Cemetery Administration has been or is to be discontinued, the Secretary may provide for the removal of remains from that cemetery to any cemetery under the control of such Administration. The Secretary may also provide for the removal of the remains of any veteran from a place of temporary interment, or from an abandoned grave or cemetery, to a national cemetery.

(Added Pub. L. 93-43, §2(a), June 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 77, §1005; amended Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(56), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3295; Pub. L. 101-237, title III, §313(b)(1), (4), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2077; renumbered §2405, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406; Pub. L. 105-368, title IV, §403(c)(7), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3339.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-368, in first sentence, substituted "under the control of the National Cemetery Administration" for "within the National Cemetery System" and "under the control of such Administration" for "within such System".

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 1005 of this title as this section.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-237, §313(b)(4), inserted "of the Interior" after "funds appropriated to the Secretary".

Pub. L. 101-237, §313(b)(1), substituted "Secretary may transfer" for "Administrator may transfer" and "Secretary's" for "Administrator's".

Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 101-237, §313(b)(1), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-576, §701(56)(A), substituted "the Administrator's" for "his".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-576, §701(56)(B), substituted "The Administrator" for "He".

§ 2406. Acquisition of lands

As additional lands are needed for national cemeteries, they may be acquired by the Secretary by purchase, gift (including donations from States or political subdivisions thereof), condemnation, transfer from other Federal agencies, exchange, or otherwise, as the Secretary determines to be in the best interest of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 93-43, §2(a), June 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 78, §1006; amended Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(57), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3295; Pub. L. 101-237, title III, §313(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat.