Why I voted Yes on S. 3202, the Dignified Burial of Veterans Act.

The bill would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide caskets and urns for deceased veterans who do not have an identified next of kin. The legislation also requires the VA to follow the burial wishes of family that are identified, establishes a registry for veterans injured or exposed to toxic chemicals created by open burn pits, and authorizes the VA to provide transportation to certain individuals traveling to and from VA facilities.

This legislation was written largely in response to the discovery last year that a World War II veteran had been buried in a cardboard box in Florida. No veteran deserves an improper burial. This legislation would help ensure that even those without an identified next of kin receive the respectful treatment tha they deserve.

The bill was approved by a vote of 393 – 0.