



1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198 (703) 247-5800 www.afa.org
An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Steve Cohen
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

The Air Force Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 125,000 current and former Airmen and their families, is writing to express our support for H.R. 1633, the Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes (WISH) Act.

Under current law, servicemembers do not have the option to truly designate a person of their choosing to have the authority of direct disposition over their remains if, dreadfully, they pay the ultimate sacrifice. While current law does allow for this authority for surviving spouses, blood relatives or adoptive relatives, many times this limited authority proves inadequate. In other cases it has proven to be unsavory and off-putting in the eyes of currently-serving or prospective military personnel. Your legislation would rectify this problem by allowing servicemen and servicewomen to designate a person of their choosing to dispose of their remains.

The Air Force Association strongly supports H.R. 1633. Please contact Shane Barker in our Office of Government Relations at (703) 247-5800 ext. 4842 if we can further assist in achieving this important goal.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Dunn
President and CEO