

## [CHAPTER 892]

## AN ACT

To authorize the exchange of certain patented lands in the Death Valley National Monument for Government lands in the monument.

October 17, 1940  
[H. R. 8646]  
[Public, No. 865]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the owner of the east half of the northeast quarter, section 35, township 15 south, range 44 east, of the Mount Diablo meridian, Inyo County, California, within the Death Valley National Monument, is hereby permitted and authorized to convey the fee-simple title thereto to the United States, and select in lieu thereof the west half of the southeast quarter, section 36, township 15 south, range 44 east, of the Mount Diablo meridian; and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and empowered to accept such conveyance, and thereafter cause a patent for the lands so selected to be issued to such owner, reserving to the United States, however, such rights-of-way as may be needed for the construction and maintenance of roads in the national monument: *Provided,* That the lands so conveyed to the United States shall become and be a part of the said national monument, and also subject to all laws and regulations relating to other lands therein: *And provided further,* That the owner of such privately owned lands within said national monument shall, before any exchange is effective, furnish to the Secretary of the Interior evidence satisfactory to him of title to the patent lands offered in exchange.

Death Valley National Monument, Calif.

Lands in, conveyed to United States.

Selection in lieu thereof.

*Provided.*  
Lands to become part of monument.

Evidence of title.

Approved, October 17, 1940.

## [CHAPTER 893]

## AN ACT

To amend section 202 (3), World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, to provide more adequate and uniform administrative provisions in veterans' laws, and for other purposes.

October 17, 1940  
[H. R. 8930]  
[Public, No. 866]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Public Law Numbered 484, Seventy-third Congress, approved June 28, 1934, as amended, is hereby amended by adding a new section thereto numbered 6 to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. There shall be no recovery of payments heretofore or hereafter made under the provisions of this Act from any person who, in the judgment of the Administrator, is without fault on his part and where, in the judgment of the Administrator, such recovery would defeat the purpose of benefits otherwise authorized or would be against equity and good conscience. No disbursing officer and no certifying officer shall be held liable for any amount paid to any person where the recovery of such amount from the payee is waived under the provisions of this section. This section shall be deemed to be in effect as of June 28, 1934."

SEC. 2. (a) That paragraphs II, III, and IV of Veterans Regulation Numbered 9 (a), as amended, be further amended to read as follows:

"II. Where an honorably discharged veteran of any war, a veteran of any war in receipt of pension or compensation, a veteran discharged from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for disability incurred in line of duty, or a veteran of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard in receipt of pension for service-connected disability dies after discharge, the Administrator, in his discretion and with due regard to the circumstances in each case, shall pay, for burial and funeral expenses and transportation

Administrative provisions in veterans' laws.

48 Stat. 1281.  
38 U. S. C., §§ 503-507; Supp. V, §§ 503-506.

Veterans' benefits.  
No recovery from beneficiary if without fault, etc.

No liability of disbursing officer.

Provision retroactive.

38 U. S. C., 1934 ed., p. 1702; Supp. V, p. 998.

Burial allowances.  
*Ante*, p. 963.