

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2097

To authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Frank Buckles World
5 War I Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2017, the United States will commemo-
2 rate the centennial of its entry into World War I,
3 which introduced the American soldier to the world
4 in what would become a familiar role as defender,
5 liberator, and promoter of peace and democracy.

6 (2) The support provided by the United States
7 to Great Britain, France, and other allies in World
8 War I marked the first time in the history of the
9 United States that American soldiers went overseas
10 to defend foreign soil against aggression, and it
11 marked the true beginning of “the American cen-
12 tury”.

13 (3) Although World War I was called the
14 “Great War” and the “War to End All Wars”, in
15 fact, the United States would commit its troops to
16 the defense of foreign lands several more times in
17 the 20th century.

18 (4) While three of these subsequent conflicts,
19 World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam
20 War, rightfully have commemorative memorials on
21 the National Mall in the District of Columbia, there
22 is no memorial to World War I on the Mall, even
23 though more Americans gave their lives in World
24 War I than in either the Korean War or the Viet-
25 nam War.

1 (5) While a memorial to General John Pershing
2 and the American Expeditionary Forces that he led
3 during World War I is located in the District of Co-
4 lumbia, that memorial is not located on the Mall and
5 does not commemorate the total participation of the
6 United States and its Armed Forces in World War
7 I.

8 (6) The District of Columbia War Memorial is
9 located on the Mall, adjacent to the Lincoln Reflect-
10 ing Pool between the World War II and Korean War
11 memorials, and was erected in memory of the 499
12 residents of the District of Columbia who died in
13 World War I.

14 (7) The District of Columbia War Memorial is
15 in extreme disrepair and is often overlooked by resi-
16 dents and visitors to Washington.

17 (8) In recognition of the upcoming anniver-
18 saries of America's entry into World War I, and of
19 the armistice that concluded World War I on No-
20 vember 11, 1918, and in order to honor the mem-
21 bers of the United States Armed Forces who served
22 in World War I and to ensure that future genera-
23 tions of Americans will know the complete history of
24 America's 20th-century struggle against aggression
25 and totalitarianism, it is timely and proper to re-

1 dedicate the site of the District of Columbia War
2 Memorial on the National Mall as a “National and
3 District of Columbia World War I Memorial”.

4 (9) Because this Act authorizes the rededication
5 and related enhancement of a commemorative work
6 that already exists, and that is already sited within
7 the Reserve as defined in Commemorative Works
8 Act, the provisions of the Commemorative Works
9 Act regarding site approval and location of com-
10 memorative works do not apply to this Act.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE**
12 **WORK.**

13 The World War I Memorial Foundation is authorized
14 to establish a commemorative work rededicating the Dis-
15 trict of Columbia War Memorial as a National and Dis-
16 trict of Columbia World War I Memorial, including—

17 (1) full restoration of the existing District of
18 Columbia War Memorial; and

19 (2) the addition of an appropriate sculptural or
20 other commemorative element, which shall com-
21 plement and preserve the existing memorial and its
22 landscape, at the site of the existing memorial to
23 make it a national memorial.

1 **SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORA-**
2 **TIVE WORKS; LOCATION OF MEMORIAL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection
4 (b), the rededication of the District of Columbia War Me-
5 morial shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40,
6 United States Code (popularly known as the Commemora-
7 tive Works Act).

8 (b) EXCEPTION.—Sections 8908 and 8905 of title 40,
9 United States Code shall not apply to this Act.

10 **SEC. 5. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.**

11 The Foundation shall solicit and accept private con-
12 tributions for the memorial.

13 **SEC. 6. DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.**

14 If, upon payment of all expenses of the rededication
15 (including the maintenance and preservation amount pro-
16 vided for in chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code,
17 or upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative
18 work under such chapter), there remains a balance of
19 funds received for the establishment of the commemorative
20 work, the World War I Memorial Foundation shall trans-
21 mit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the
22 Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section
23 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code.

○