

Union Calendar No. 216

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2717

[Report No. 118-267]

To authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. BICE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. ALLRED) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Additional sponsors: Mr. RESCENTIALER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CARL, Mr. FRY, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BACON, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. LAWLER

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 19, 2023]

A BILL

To authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

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 “Hershel ‘Woody’ Wil-*
5 *liams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

8 (1) *Congress in 2021 unanimously passed, and*
9 *the President signed, Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C.*
10 *8903 note), which authorized the National Medal of*
11 *Honor Museum Foundation to establish on Federal*
12 *land in the District of Columbia a commemorative*
13 *work to honor the acts of valor, selfless service, and*
14 *sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.*

15 (2) *The Medal of Honor was established by*
16 *President Abraham Lincoln and first awarded 160*
17 *years ago on March 25, 1863, and is part of Lincoln’s*
18 *lasting and living legacy.*

19 (3) *In 1991, during the administration of Presi-*
20 *dent George H.W. Bush, this legacy was extended fur-*
21 *ther when National Medal of Honor Day was estab-*
22 *lished as March 25th of each year.*

23 (4) *The Medal of Honor is awarded to all*
24 *branches of the United States Armed Forces as our*
25 *nation’s highest recognition for valor in combat.*

1 (5) *The number of living Medal of Honor recipi-*
2 *ents has been steadily declining, making it even more*
3 *crucial to honor and recognize their heroic sacrifices*
4 *and inspire future generations.*

5 (6) *Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last World*
6 *War II Medal of Honor recipient, passed away in*
7 *2022 and laid in honor at the United States Capitol.*

8 (7) *The Medal of Honor represents the very best*
9 *of our Nation—ordinary citizens, who took extraor-*
10 *inary action above and beyond the call of duty and*
11 *became heroes of our Republic.*

12 (8) *These examples inspire all citizens and ignite*
13 *within us the very spirit of America.*

14 (9) *The Medal of Honor rises to the level of su-*
15 *preme national and historical importance necessary*
16 *to warrant representation on the National Mall.*

17 (10) *Locating the National Medal of Honor*
18 *Monument in close proximity to the Lincoln Memo-*
19 *rial within the Reserve would be a respectful exten-*
20 *sion of his enduring legacy and recognition of what*
21 *ordinary people can accomplish when working for the*
22 *greater good.*

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCA-**
2 **TION.**

3 (a) *SITE.*—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40,
4 *United States Code*, the commemorative work authorized by
5 *section 1(a) of Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note)*
6 *shall be located within the Reserve (as defined in section*
7 *8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).*

8 (b) *APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS*
9 *ACT.*—*Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of*
10 *title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the*
11 *“Commemorative Works Act”), shall apply to the com-*
12 *memorative work.*

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