

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 938

To establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I and to designate memorials to the service of men and women of the United States in World War I.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I and to designate memorials to the service of men and women of the United States in 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Establishment of World War I Centennial Commission.
- Sec. 6. Duties of the Commission.
- Sec. 7. Powers of the Commission.
- Sec. 8. Commission personnel matters.
- Sec. 9. Termination of the Commission.
- Sec. 10. Designation of National World War I Memorials.
- Sec. 11. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 12. Effective date.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) From 2014 through 2018, the United
6 States and nations around the world will mark the
7 centennial of World War I, including the entry of
8 the United States into the war in April 1917.

9 (2) America’s support of Great Britain, France,
10 Belgium, and its other allies in World War I marked
11 the first time in United States history that Amer-
12 ican soldiers went abroad in defense of liberty
13 against foreign aggression, and it marked the true
14 beginning of the “American century”.

15 (3) Although World War I was at the time
16 called “the war to end all wars”, in fact the United
17 States would commit its troops to the defense of for-
18 eign lands 3 more times in the 20th century.

19 (4) More than 4,000,000 men and women from
20 the United States served in uniform during World

1 War I, among them 2 future presidents, Harry S.
2 Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two million in-
3 dividuals from the United States served overseas
4 during World War I, including 200,000 naval per-
5 sonnel who served on the seas. The United States
6 suffered 375,000 casualties during World War I, in-
7 cluding 116,516 deaths.

8 (5) The events of 1914 through 1918 shaped
9 the world, the United States, and the lives of mil-
10 lions of people.

11 (6) The centennial of World War I offers an op-
12 portunity for people in the United States to learn
13 about and commemorate the sacrifices of their pred-
14 ecessors.

15 (7) Commemorative programs, activities, and
16 sites allow people in the United States to learn
17 about the history of World War I, the United States
18 involvement in that war, and the war's effects on the
19 remainder of the 20th century, and to commemorate
20 and honor the participation of the United States and
21 its citizens in the war effort.

22 (8) While the other great conflicts of the 20th
23 century, World War II, the Korean War, and the
24 Vietnam War, have national memorials on the Mall
25 in Washington, DC, there currently exists no nation-

1 tionally recognized memorial honoring the service of
2 the United States and its citizens in World War I.

3 (9) In 1921, the people of Kansas City, Mis-
4 souri, dedicated a site in that city for a memorial to
5 the service of Americans in World War I, a cere-
6 mony attended by General John J. Pershing and
7 military leaders of Great Britain, France, Belgium,
8 and Italy. In 1924, the cornerstone of the 217-foot
9 Liberty Memorial Tower was laid. On Armistice Day
10 1926, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the key
11 note address at the Memorial's dedication ceremony.
12 The Memorial and surrounding grounds were com-
13 pleted in 1938, with an inscription that reads "In
14 Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in
15 Defense of Liberty and Our Country."

16 (10) The 106th Congress recognized the Lib-
17 erty Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.

18 (11) The 108th Congress designated the mu-
19 seum at the base of the Liberty Memorial as "Amer-
20 ica's National World War I Museum". The museum
21 preserves the story of World War I, and educates
22 and enlightens people about this significant event.

23 (12) The District of Columbia War Memorial
24 was authorized in 1924 by resolution of the 68th
25 Congress, and was dedicated on Armistice Day 1931

1 by President Herbert Hoover. The DC War Memo-
2 rial, erected in memory of the 499 residents of the
3 District of Columbia who died in World War I, is
4 often overlooked by residents and visitors to Wash-
5 ington.

6 (13) The DC War Memorial is located on the
7 national Mall in Washington, adjacent to the World
8 War II, Korean War, and Vietnam memorials. Of
9 these memorials, which now compose a quartet of
10 memorials to the 4 great wars of the American Cen-
11 tury, only the DC War Memorial is not a national
12 memorial.

13 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

14 The purpose of this Act is to—

15 (1) establish a commission, in Kansas City,
16 Missouri, to ensure a suitable national observance of
17 the centennial of World War I; and

18 (2) rededicate the Liberty Memorial of Kansas
19 City and the District of Columbia War Memorial, re-
20 spectively, as the “National World War I Museum
21 and Memorial” and the “District of Columbia and
22 National World War I Memorial”.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act—

1 (1) AMERICA’S NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MU-
2 SEUM.—The term “America’s National World War I
3 Museum” means the Liberty Memorial Museum in
4 Kansas City, Missouri, as recognized by Congress in
5 section 1031(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National
6 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005
7 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2045).

8 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
9 means the World War I Centennial Commission es-
10 tablished by section 5(a).

11 (3) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
12 term “veterans service organization” means any or-
13 ganization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
14 Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
15 tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL**
17 **COMMISSION.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
19 mission to be known as the “World War I Centennial
20 Commission”.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
23 composed of 24 members as follows:

24 (A) Four members who shall be appointed
25 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (B) Three members who shall be appointed
2 by the minority leader of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 (C) Four members who shall be appointed
5 by the majority leader of the Senate.

6 (D) Three members who shall be appointed
7 by the minority leader of the Senate.

8 (E) Seven members who shall be appointed
9 by the President from among persons who are
10 broadly representative of the people of the
11 United States (including members of the Armed
12 Forces, veterans, and representatives of vet-
13 erans service organizations).

14 (F) One member who shall be appointed by
15 the executive director of the Veterans of For-
16 eign Wars of the United States.

17 (G) One member who shall be appointed by
18 the executive director of the American Legion.

19 (H) One member who shall be appointed
20 by the president of the Liberty Memorial Asso-
21 ciation.

22 (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member
23 shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

1 (3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
2 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
3 appointment was made.

4 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days
6 after the date on which all members of the
7 Commission have been appointed, the Commis-
8 sion shall hold its first meeting.

9 (B) LOCATION.—The location for the
10 meeting held under subparagraph (A) shall be
11 the America's National World War I Museum.

12 (5) MEETINGS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
14 meet at the call of the Chair.

15 (B) FREQUENCY.—The Chair shall call a
16 meeting of the members of the Commission not
17 less frequently than once each year.

18 (C) LOCATION.—Not less frequently than
19 once each year, the Commission shall meet at
20 the America's National World War I Museum.

21 (6) QUORUM.—Thirteen members of the Com-
22 mission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
23 ber may hold hearings.

1 (7) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission
2 shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among its
3 members.

4 **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The duties of the Commission are
6 as follows:

7 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs,
8 projects, and activities to commemorate the centen-
9 nial of World War I.

10 (2) To encourage private organizations and
11 State and local governments to organize and partici-
12 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of
13 World War I.

14 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities
15 throughout the United States relating to the centen-
16 nial of World War I.

17 (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collec-
18 tion and dissemination of information about events
19 and plans for the centennial of World War I.

20 (5) To develop recommendations for Congress
21 and the President for commemorating the centennial
22 of World War I.

23 (b) REPORTS.—

24 (1) PERIODIC REPORT.—Beginning not later
25 than the last day of the 3-month period beginning

1 on the effective date of this Act and the last day of
2 each 3-month period thereafter, the Commission
3 shall submit to Congress and the President a report
4 on the activities and plans of the Commission.

5 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2
6 years after the effective date of this Act, the Com-
7 mission shall submit to Congress and the President
8 a report containing specific recommendations for
9 commemorating the centennial of World War I and
10 coordinating related activities.

11 **SEC. 7. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

12 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such
13 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
14 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
15 considers appropriate to carry out the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 (b) POWERS OF MEMBER AND AGENTS.—If author-
18 ized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Com-
19 mission may take any action which the Commission is au-
20 thorized to take under this Act.

21 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
22 Commission shall secure directly from any Federal depart-
23 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
24 sidered necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
25 Upon the request of the Chair of the Commission, the

1 head of such department or agency shall furnish such in-
2 formation to the Commission.

3 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
4 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of the
5 General Services Administration shall provide to the Com-
6 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative sup-
7 port services necessary for the Commission to carry out
8 its responsibilities under this Act.

9 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
11 graph (2), the Commission is authorized—

12 (A) to procure supplies, services, and prop-
13 erty; and

14 (B) to make or enter into contracts, leases,
15 or other legal agreements.

16 (2) LIMITATION.—The Commission may not
17 enter into any contract, lease, or other legal agree-
18 ment that extends beyond the date of the termi-
19 nation of the Commission under section 9(a).

20 (f) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
21 the United States mails in the same manner and under
22 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
23 the Federal Government.

24 (g) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVICES.—

1 (1) ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.—The Com-
2 mission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, be-
3 quests, or devises of services or property, both real
4 and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facili-
5 tating the work of the Commission.

6 (2) DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.—Gifts, be-
7 quests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales
8 of other property received as gifts, requests, or de-
9 vises shall be deposited in the Treasury of the
10 United States and shall be available for disburse-
11 ment upon order of the Commission.

12 **SEC. 8. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

13 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the
14 Commission shall serve without compensation for such
15 service.

16 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
17 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
18 diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with the applica-
19 ble provisions of title 5, United States Code.

20 (c) STAFF.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Commis-
22 sion shall, in consultation with the members of the
23 Commission, appoint an executive director and such
24 other additional personnel as may be necessary to
25 enable the Commission to perform its duties.

1 (2) COMPENSATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
3 graph (B), the Chair of the Commission may
4 fix the compensation of the executive director
5 and any other personnel appointed under para-
6 graph (1).

7 (B) LIMITATION.—The Chair of the Com-
8 mission may not fix the compensation of the ex-
9 ecutive director or other personnel appointed
10 under paragraph (1) at a rate that exceeds the
11 rate of payable for level IV of the Executive
12 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 (C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-
15 ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the Lib-
16 erty Memorial Association make space available
17 in the building in which the America’s National
18 World War I Museum is located, the executive
19 director of the Commission and other personnel
20 appointed under paragraph (1) shall work in
21 such building to the extent practical.

22 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon
23 request of the Commission, the head of any Federal de-
24 partment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis,
25 any employee of that department or agency to the Com-

1 mission to assist it in carrying out its duties under this
2 Act.

3 (e) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-**
4 **TENT SERVICES.**—The Chair of the Commission may pro-
5 cure temporary and intermittent services under section
6 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall terminate
9 on the earlier of—

10 (1) the date that is 30 days after the date the
11 completion of the activities under this Act honoring
12 the centennial observation of World War I; or

13 (2) July 28, 2019.

14 (b) **APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-**
15 **MITTEE ACT.**—

16 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), the provisions of the Federal Advisory
18 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the
19 activities of the Commission under this Act.

20 (2) **EXCEPTION.**—Section 14(a)(2) of such Act
21 shall not apply to the Commission.

22 **SEC. 10. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMO-**
23 **RIALS.**

24 (a) **DESIGNATION OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR**
25 **I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, MISSOURI.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Liberty Memorial of
2 Kansas City at the America’s National World War
3 I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is designated as
4 the “National World War I Museum and Memorial”.

5 (2) CEREMONIES.—The Commission may plan,
6 develop, and execute ceremonies to rededicate the
7 Liberty Memorial of Kansas City as the National
8 World War I Museum and Memorial.

9 (b) DESIGNATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
10 AND NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL.—

11 (1) DESIGNATION.—The District of Columbia
12 War Memorial in Washington, DC, is designated as
13 the “District of Columbia and National World War
14 I Memorial”.

15 (2) CEREMONIES.—The Commission may plan,
16 develop, and execute ceremonies to rededicate the
17 District of Columbia War Memorial as the District
18 of Columbia and National World War I Memorial.

19 (3) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORA-
20 TIVE WORK.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The World War I Me-
22 morial Foundation may establish a commemora-
23 tive work at the site of the District of Columbia
24 and National World War I Memorial consisting
25 of an appropriate sculptural or other commemo-

1 rative element reflecting the national character
2 of the memorial.

3 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any commemorative
4 work established under subparagraph (A) shall
5 complement and preserve the memorial (includ-
6 ing the landscape of the memorial), as in exist-
7 ence on the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (4) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COM-
9 MEMORATIVE WORKS; LOCATION OF MEMORIAL.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
11 graph (B), the rededication of the District of
12 Columbia and National World War I Memorial
13 shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title
14 40, United States Code.

15 (B) CONGRESSIONAL FINDING.—Congress
16 finds that because this Act authorizes the re-
17 dedication and related enhancement of a com-
18 memorative work that, as of the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, is in existence and is sited
20 within the Reserve (as defined in section
21 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code), the
22 provisions regarding site approval and location
23 of commemorative works under sections 8905
24 and 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, do
25 not apply to this Act.

1 (5) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—The World
2 War I Memorial Foundation shall transmit to the
3 Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account
4 provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United
5 States Code—

6 (A) any funds that remain after payment
7 of all expenses incurred in the rededication of
8 the memorial (including payment of the amount
9 for maintenance and preservation required
10 under section 8906(b) of that title); or

11 (B) any funds that remain for the com-
12 memorative work authorized under subsection
13 (a) on expiration of the authority for the com-
14 memorative work under section 8903(e) of that
15 title.

16 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through
19 2019.

20 **SEC. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 This Act takes effect on the date that is 90 days after
22 the date of enactment of this Act.

○