

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2206

To express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance
of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and
maintenance of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne,
Belgium.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AGREEMENT**
2 **BETWEEN THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONU-**
3 **MENTS COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT**
4 **OF BELGIUM BY WHICH THE COMMISSION**
5 **WOULD ACQUIRE, RESTORE, OPERATE, AND**
6 **MAINTAIN THE MARDASSON MEMORIAL IN**
7 **BASTOGNE, BELGIUM.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress make the following find-
9 ings:

10 (1) The Battle of the Bulge was one of the
11 largest land battles fought by the United States dur-
12 ing World War II, yielded more than 75,000 Amer-
13 ican casualties over the winter of 1944–1945, and
14 stopped the last major German offensive on the
15 Western Front.

16 (2) The Battle of the Bulge is a legendary bat-
17 tle in the history of the United States Army.

18 (3) Following the war, Belgian groups raised
19 funds to construct the Mardasson Memorial in Bas-
20 togne, Belgium, to honor Americans killed, wounded,
21 and missing in action during the Battle of the
22 Bulge.

23 (4) The Mardasson Memorial, inaugurated in
24 1950, is a five-pointed American star with the his-
25 tory of the battle, the names of the units that

1 fought, and the names of the States engraved in
2 gold letters throughout.

3 (5) The Mardasson Memorial, owned and main-
4 tained by the Government of Belgium, is in need of
5 extensive repair to restore it to a condition commen-
6 surate to the service and sacrifice it honors.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress to support an agreement between the American Bat-
9 tle Monument Commission (hereinafter referred to as
10 “ABMC”) and the Government of Belgium—

11 (1) under the monument maintenance program
12 of the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of
13 such program, by which the ABMC would use its ex-
14 pertise and presence in Europe to oversee restora-
15 tion of the Mardasson Memorial in preparation for
16 the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge; and

17 (2) under the monument trust fund program of
18 the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of such
19 program, by which the ABMC assumes ownership
20 and responsibility for the Mardasson Memorial, en-
21 suring that the Memorial stands for decades to
22 come, honoring American service and sacrifice, and
23 inspiring future generations.

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