

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2201

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National War Perma-
3 nent Tribute Historical Database Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) on November 13, 2000, Congress agreed to
7 a resolution expressing the sense of Congress re-
8 garding the need for cataloging and maintaining
9 public memorials;

10 (2) there are many thousands of public memo-
11 rials and permanent tributes throughout the United
12 States and abroad that commemorate military con-
13 flicts of the United States and the service of individ-
14 uals in the Armed Forces;

15 (3) many of these memorials suffer from ne-
16 glect and disrepair, and many have been relocated or
17 stored in facilities where the memorials are unavail-
18 able to the public and subject to further neglect and
19 damage; and

20 (4) there exists a need to collect and centralize
21 information regarding the identification, location,
22 and description of these memorials, as no such cata-
23 log is available to the public from either the Federal
24 Government or any nongovernmental entity.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to locate, identify,
3 and catalog the many thousands of permanent tributes
4 that commemorate the military conflicts of the United
5 States, and the service and sacrifice of individuals in the
6 Armed Forces of the United States, and to make such in-
7 formation readily available for the educational benefit of
8 the public, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation
9 with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, may establish and
10 maintain a database known as the National War Perma-
11 nent Tribute Historical Database.

12 (b) CONTENT.—The database shall contain informa-
13 tion on—

14 (1) the location, history, and background of the
15 permanent tributes;

16 (2) photographs and other information to en-
17 hance the understanding of the permanent tributes;

18 (3) information about the veterans in whose
19 honor the permanent tributes are dedicated; and

20 (4) any other information the Secretary con-
21 siders appropriate and necessary.

22 (c) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The database shall be made ac-
23 cessible to the public, through the Internet or by other
24 means, in a format that permits the public to submit infor-
25 mation on permanent tributes for the purpose of updating
26 and expanding the database.

1 (d) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may
2 seek the assistance of other Federal agencies and the
3 States and their political subdivisions, tribal governments,
4 public or private educational institutions, non-profit orga-
5 nizations, and individuals or other entities that the Sec-
6 retary considers appropriate in carrying out this Act, and
7 may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to
8 obtain information or services that assist in the develop-
9 ment and implementation of the database.

10 (e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
11 “permanent tribute” means any statue, structure, or other
12 monument on public property commemorating the service
13 of any person or persons in the Armed Forces.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
16 retary of the Interior such sums as may be necessary to
17 carry out this Act.

18 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

19 Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this
20 Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit to the
21 Congress a report assessing the efficacy and desirability
22 of establishing a permanent fund within the Treasury for
23 the repair, restoration, and maintenance of the memorials
24 identified and catalogued under section 3. The report shall
25 include recommended criteria regarding appropriate re-

1 cipients of expenditures from such a fund as well as pro-
2 posed funding mechanisms and any other information con-
3 sidered by the Secretary to be relevant.

Passed the House of Representatives May 17, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.