

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1064

To establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2003

Mr. BREAUX introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy, and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and for other purposes.

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 “Civil War Sesqui-
5 centennial Commission Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) The American Civil War was a defining ex-
10 perience in the development of the United States.

1 (2) The people of the United States continue to
2 struggle with issues of race, civil rights, the politics
3 of federalism, and heritage which are legacies of the
4 Civil War and Reconstruction.

5 (3) There is a resurgence of interest in the Civil
6 War, that is evidenced by the multitude of publica-
7 tions, exhibits, reenactments, research organizations,
8 Internet and multimedia resources, historic parks,
9 and preservation associations focused on the Civil
10 War.

11 (4) The years 2011 through 2015 mark the ses-
12 quicentennial of the Civil War.

13 (5) The sesquicentennial of the Civil War pre-
14 sents a significant opportunity for Americans to re-
15 call and reflect upon the Civil War and its legacy in
16 a spirit of reconciliation and reflection.

17 (6) The United States Civil War Center at Lou-
18 isiana State University, Louisiana, and the Civil
19 War Institute at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania,
20 have been designated by the Federal government to
21 plan and facilitate the commemoration of the sesqui-
22 centennial of the Civil War.

23 (7) The State of Virginia—

24 (A) witnessed more Civil War military en-
25 gagements on its soil than any other State;

1 (B) hosts more historic sites related to the
2 Civil War than any other State; and

3 (C) is home to the Pamplin Historical
4 Park and the National Museum of the Civil
5 War Soldier and the Virginia Center for Civil
6 War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute
7 and State University, both of which are nation-
8 ally recognized centers of expertise in the study
9 of the Civil War.

10 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
11 lish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Com-
12 mission to—

13 (1) ensure a suitable national observance of the
14 sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

15 (2) cooperate with and assist States and na-
16 tional organizations with programs and activities for
17 the observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil
18 War;

19 (3) assist in ensuring that any observance of
20 the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is inclusive and
21 appropriately recognizes the experiences and points
22 of view of all people affected by the Civil War; and

23 (4) provide assistance for the development of
24 programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War
25 that have lasting educational value.

1 **SEC. 3. CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION**
2 **COMMISSION.**

3 There is established a commission to be known as the
4 Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission
5 (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be com-
8 posed of 27 members as follows:

9 (1) GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.—The Commission
10 shall include—

11 (A) 2 Members of the House of Represent-
12 atives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives;

14 (B) 2 Members of the Senate appointed by
15 the President pro tempore of the Senate, in
16 consultation with the Majority Leader and the
17 Minority Leader of the Senate;

18 (C) the Secretary of the Smithsonian Insti-
19 tution, or the designee of the Secretary;

20 (D) the Secretary of the Department of
21 Education, or the designee of the Secretary;

22 (E) the Chairman of the National Endow-
23 ment for the Humanities, or the designee of the
24 Chairman;

25 (F) the Archivist of the United States, or
26 the designee of the Archivist;

1 (G) the Librarian of Congress, or the des-
2 ignee of the Librarian; and

3 (H) the Director of the National Park
4 Service, or the designee of the Director.

5 (2) PRIVATE MEMBERS.—The Commission shall
6 include—

7 (A) an individual appointed by the Presi-
8 dent after consultation with the Director of the
9 United States Civil War Center at Louisiana
10 State University, Louisiana;

11 (B) an individual appointed by the Presi-
12 dent after consultation with the Director of the
13 Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College,
14 Pennsylvania;

15 (C) 5 members appointed by the President
16 from among individuals who are representative
17 of the corporate community;

18 (D) an individual appointed by the Presi-
19 dent after consultation with—

20 (i) the Director of the Virginia Center
21 for Civil War Studies at Virginia Poly-
22 technic Institute and State University, Vir-
23 ginia; and

1 (ii) the Director of Pamplin Historical
2 Park and the National Museum of the
3 Civil War Soldier, Virginia; and

4 (E) 9 individuals, appointed by the Presi-
5 dent, from among persons who by reason of
6 education, training, and experience, are experts
7 on the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruc-
8 tion eras, including—

9 (i) 6 individuals with expertise in his-
10 tory;

11 (ii) 1 individual with specific expertise
12 in art history, historic preservation, or a
13 related field;

14 (iii) 1 individual with expertise in an-
15 thropology, cultural geography, sociology,
16 or a related field; and

17 (iv) 1 individual with expertise in po-
18 litical science, law, economics, or a related
19 field.

20 (b) TERMS.—Members shall be appointed for the life
21 of the Commission.

22 (c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission
23 shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same
24 manner as the original appointment.

1 (d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of
2 the members of the Commission shall be made not later
3 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

5 (a) MEETINGS.—

6 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
7 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
8 sion have been appointed, the members appointed
9 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 4(a)(2)
10 shall call the first meeting of the Commission.

11 (2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—The Commission
12 shall hold subsequent meetings at the call of the
13 chairperson.

14 (b) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—At the
15 initial meeting, the Commission shall elect a Chairperson
16 and Vice Chairperson from among its voting members.

17 (c) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members shall
18 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meet-
19 ings.

20 (d) VOTING.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act
22 only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the vot-
23 ing members of the Commission.

24 (2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The individuals
25 appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-

1 tion 4(a)(1) shall be nonvoting members, and shall
2 serve only in an advisory capacity.

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

4 (a) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SESQUICENTEN-
5 NIAL.—The Commission shall—

6 (1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and
7 activities appropriate to commemorate the sesqui-
8 centennial of the Civil War;

9 (2) encourage interdisciplinary examination of
10 the Civil War;

11 (3) facilitate Civil War-related activities
12 throughout the United States;

13 (4) encourage civic, historical, educational, eco-
14 nomic, and other organizations throughout the
15 United States to organize and participate in activi-
16 ties to expand the understanding and appreciation of
17 the significance of the Civil War;

18 (5) coordinate and facilitate the public distribu-
19 tion of scholarly research, publications, and interpre-
20 tations of the Civil War;

21 (6) provide technical assistance to States, local-
22 ities, and nonprofit organizations to further the com-
23 memoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

24 (7) develop programs and facilities to ensure
25 that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the

1 Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term
2 public benefit;

3 (8) administer the grant program under section
4 7; and

5 (9) encourage the development and conduct of
6 programs designed to involve the international com-
7 munity in activities that commemorate the Civil
8 War.

9 (b) PLANS AND REPORT.—

10 (1) PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a
11 strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title
12 5, United States Code, and the annual plan and re-
13 port required by sections 1115 and 1116, respec-
14 tively, of title 31, United States Code.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than December 30,
16 2015, the Commission shall submit to Congress a
17 final report that contains—

18 (A) a summary of activities of the Com-
19 mission;

20 (B) a final accounting of funds received
21 and expended by the Commission; and

22 (C) the findings and recommendations of
23 the Commission.

1 **SEC. 7. GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Commission shall
3 award a grant in each of the fiscal years 2004 through
4 2016 to each of the following:

5 (1) The United States Civil War Center at Lou-
6 isiana State University, Louisiana.

7 (2) The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg Col-
8 lege, Pennsylvania.

9 (3) The Virginia Center for Civil War Studies
10 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univer-
11 sity, Virginia, and the Pamplin Historical Park and
12 the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Vir-
13 ginia.

14 (b) LIMITATIONS.—The amount of any grant under
15 subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed \$100,000,
16 nor may the amount of such grant be less than \$80,000.

17 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts awarded under sub-
18 section (a) shall be used for appropriate activities relating
19 to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

20 **SEC. 8. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

22 (1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts or
23 donations of services or property, and acknowledge
24 publicly the sources of such gifts and donations;

1 (2) appoint any advisory committee as the
2 Commission considers appropriate for the purposes
3 of this Act;

4 (3) authorize any voting member or employee of
5 the Commission to take any action that the Commis-
6 sion is authorized to take under this Act; and

7 (4) procure supplies and services to carry out
8 this Act.

9 (b) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use
10 the United States mails in the same manner and under
11 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
12 the Federal Government.

13 **SEC. 9. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

14 (a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Members of the
15 Commission, and members of any advisory committee ap-
16 pointed under section 8(a)(2), shall serve without com-
17 pensation.

18 (b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Members of the Commis-
19 sion, and members of any advisory committees appointed
20 under section 8(a)(2), shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
21 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized
22 for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chap-
23 ter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from
24 the home or regular place of business of the member in
25 the performance of the duties of the Commission.

1 (c) STAFF.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
3 Commission may, without regard to civil service laws
4 and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive
5 director and other additional personnel as may be
6 necessary to enable the Commission to perform its
7 duties.

8 (2) CONFIRMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIREC-
9 TOR.—The employment of an executive director shall
10 be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

11 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
12 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
13 Commission without reimbursement, and any detail shall
14 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or
15 privilege.

16 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
17 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission
18 may procure temporary and intermittent services under
19 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at daily
20 rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equiva-
21 lent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level
22 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such
23 title.

1 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
3 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits
4 its report under section 6(b)(2).

5 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
7 priated to carry out this Act \$500,000 for each of the fis-
8 cal years 2004 through 2016.

9 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appro-
10 priated by subsection (a) shall remain available until ex-
11 pended. Any unexpended balance of appropriations avail-
12 able pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in
13 subsection (a) as of December 30, 2016 are canceled effec-
14 tive December 30, 2021.

○