

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 760

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “National World War I Memorial”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BOND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “National World War I Memorial”.

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. NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) although more than 4,000,000 Americans
6 served in World War I, there is no nationally recog-
7 nized memorial honoring the service of those Ameri-
8 cans in that War;

1 (2)(A) in 1919, the residents of Kansas City,
2 Missouri, expressed an outpouring of support and
3 raised more than \$2,000,000 in 2 weeks for a me-
4 morial to the service of Americans in World War I;
5 and

6 (B) that fundraising—

7 (i) was an accomplishment unparalleled by
8 any other city in the United States, irrespective
9 of population; and

10 (ii) reflected the passion of public opinion
11 about World War I, which had so recently
12 ended;

13 (3) after the fundraising drive, a national archi-
14 tectural competition was held by the American Insti-
15 tute of Architects for designs for a memorial to the
16 service of Americans in World War I, and the com-
17 petition yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren
18 Magonigle;

19 (4)(A) on November 1, 1921, more than
20 100,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site
21 for the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri;
22 and

23 (B) that dedication marked the only time in
24 history that the 5 allied military leaders present,
25 Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, Gen-

1 eral Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand
2 Foch of France, General John J. Pershing of the
3 United States, and Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of
4 Great Britain, were together at 1 place;

5 (5) General Pershing, a native of Missouri and
6 the commander of the American Expeditionary
7 Forces in World War I, noted at the November 1,
8 1921, dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas City,
9 Missouri, are deeply proud of the beautiful memo-
10 rial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant
11 achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons
12 and daughters who served in our country’s armed
13 forces during the World War. It symbolized their
14 grateful appreciation of duty well done, and appre-
15 ciation which I share, because I know so well how
16 richly it is merited”;

17 (6) during an Armistice Day ceremony in 1924,
18 President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of
19 a 3-year construction project for the Liberty Memo-
20 rial by the laying of the cornerstone of the memorial;

21 (7) the 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has
22 an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who
23 Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and
24 Our Country”, as well as 4 stone “Guardian Spirits”
25 representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sac-

1 rifice, which rise above the observation deck, making
2 the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who
3 served in World War I;

4 (8) during a rededication for the Liberty Memo-
5 rial in 1961, World War I veterans and former
6 Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-
7 hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-
8 minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the
9 progress that followed;

10 (9) the 106th Congress recognized the Liberty
11 Memorial as a national symbol of World War I;

12 (10) the 108th Congress designated the mu-
13 seum at the base of the Liberty Memorial as “Amer-
14 ica’s National World War I Museum”;

15 (11) the National World War I Museum is the
16 only public museum in the United States specifically
17 dedicated to the history of World War I; and

18 (12) the National World War I Museum is
19 known throughout the world as a major center of
20 World War I remembrance.

21 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Liberty Memorial at the Na-
22 tional World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri,
23 shall be known and designated as the “National World
24 War I Memorial”.

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