

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 761

To establish the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mr. BOND (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) More than 400,000 men and women from
6 the United States served in uniform in the defense
7 of liberty during World War I, among them 2 future
8 presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-
9 hower.

1 (2) Two million individuals from the United
2 States served overseas during World War I, includ-
3 ing 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas.

4 (3) The United States suffered 375,000 casual-
5 ties during World War I.

6 (4) The events of 1914 through 1918 shaped
7 the world, the United States, and the lives of mil-
8 lions of people in countless ways.

9 (5) The centennial of World War I offers an op-
10 portunity for people in the United States to learn
11 about the sacrifices of their predecessors.

12 (6) Commemorative programs and activities
13 allow people in the United States to gain a historical
14 understanding of the type of conflicts that cause
15 countries to go to war and how those conflicts are
16 resolved.

17 (7) Kansas City is home to America's National
18 World War I Museum, as so recognized by Congress
19 in section 1031(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan Na-
20 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
21 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 118 Stat. 2045).

22 (8) America's National World War I Museum
23 seeks—

24 (A) to preserve the history of World War
25 I; and

1 (B) to educate and enlighten people about
2 this significant event, the consequences of which
3 still affect the United States.

4 (9) Kansas City is home to the national head-
5 quarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

6 (10) Missouri is the home State of General
7 John Joseph Pershing, who commanded the Amer-
8 ican Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World
9 War I.

10 (11) The Kansas City area is the home of the
11 Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum.

12 (12) The Dwight David Eisenhower Presi-
13 dential Library and Museum is located close to Kan-
14 sas City in the neighboring State of Kansas.

15 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission,
17 in Kansas City, Missouri, on the centennial of World War
18 I to ensure a suitable observance of such centennial that
19 promotes the values of honor, courage, patriotism, and
20 sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of these val-
21 ues through the four Guardian Spirits sculpted on the Lib-
22 erty Memorial Monument at America's National World
23 War I Museum.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

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

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

10 (B) Three members who shall be appointed
11 by the minority leader of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives.

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

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

17 (E) Seven members who shall be appointed
18 by the President from among persons who are
19 broadly representative of the people of the
20 United States (including members of the Armed
21 Forces, veterans, and representatives of vet-
22 erans service organizations).

23 (F) One member who shall be appointed by
24 the executive director of the Veterans of For-
25 eign Wars of the United States.

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

3 (H) One member who shall be appointed
4 by the president of the Liberty Memorial Asso-
5 ciation.

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

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

11 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—

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

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

19 (5) MEETINGS.—

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

22 (B) FREQUENCY.—The Chair shall call a
23 meeting of the members of the Commission not
24 less frequently than once each year.

1 (C) LOCATION.—Not less frequently than
2 once each year, the Commission shall meet at
3 America’s National World War I Museum.

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

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

10 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

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

13 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs,
14 projects, and activities to commemorate the centen-
15 nial of World War I.

16 (2) To encourage private organizations and
17 State and local governments to organize and partici-
18 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of
19 World War I.

20 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities
21 throughout the United States relating to the centen-
22 nial of World War I.

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

1 (5) To develop recommendations for Congress
2 and the President for commemorating the centennial
3 of World War I.

4 (b) REPORTS.—

5 (1) PERIODIC REPORT.—Beginning not later
6 than the last day of the 3-month period beginning
7 on the date described in section 9 and the last day
8 of each 3-month period thereafter, the Commission
9 shall submit to Congress and the President a report
10 on the activities and plans of the Commission.

11 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2
12 years after the date described in section 9, the Com-
13 mission shall submit to Congress and the President
14 a report containing specific recommendations for
15 commemorating the centennial of World War I and
16 coordinating related activities.

17 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

18 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such
19 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
20 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
21 considers appropriate to carry out the purposes of this
22 Act.

23 (b) POWERS OF MEMBER AND AGENTS.—If author-
24 ized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Com-

1 mission may take any action which the Commission is au-
2 thorized to take under this Act.

3 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
4 Commission shall secure directly from any Federal depart-
5 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-
6 siders necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
7 Upon the request of the Chair of the Commission, the
8 head of such department or agency shall furnish such in-
9 formation to the Commission.

10 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
11 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of the
12 General Services Administration shall provide to the Com-
13 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative sup-
14 port services necessary for the Commission to carry out
15 its responsibilities under this Act.

16 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

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

19 (A) to procure supplies, services, and prop-
20 erty; and

21 (B) to make or enter into contracts, leases,
22 or other legal agreements.

23 (2) LIMITATION.—The Commission may not
24 enter into any contract, lease, or other legal agree-

1 ment that extends beyond the date of the termi-
2 nation of the Commission under section 7(a).

3 (f) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use
4 the United States mails in the same manner and under
5 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of
6 the Federal Government.

7 (g) **GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.**—

8 (1) **ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.**—The Com-
9 mission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, be-
10 quests, or devises of services or property, both real
11 and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facili-
12 tating the work of the Commission.

13 (2) **DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.**—Gifts, be-
14 quests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales
15 of other property received as gifts, bequests, or de-
16 vises shall be deposited in the Treasury of the
17 United States and shall be available for disburse-
18 ment upon order of the Commission.

19 **SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

20 (1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Members of
21 the Commission shall serve without compensation for
22 such service.

23 (2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member of the
24 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
25 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance

1 with the applicable provisions of title 5, United
2 States Code.

3 (3) STAFF.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Com-
5 mission shall, in consultation with the members
6 of the Commission, appoint an executive direc-
7 tor and such other additional personnel as may
8 be necessary to enable the Commission to per-
9 form its duties.

10 (B) COMPENSATION.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
12 in clause (ii), the Chair of the Commission
13 may fix the compensation of the executive
14 director and other personnel appointed
15 under subparagraph (A).

16 (ii) LIMITATION.—The Chair of the
17 Commission may not fix the compensation
18 of the executive director or other personnel
19 appointed under subparagraph (A) at a
20 rate that exceeds the rate of payable for
21 level IV of the Executive Schedule under
22 section 5315 of title 5, United States
23 Code.

24 (C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-
25 ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the Lib-

1 erty Memorial Association make space available
 2 in the building in which the America’s National
 3 World War I Museum is located, the executive
 4 director of the Commission and other personnel
 5 appointed under subparagraph (A) shall work
 6 in such building to the extent practical.

7 (4) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—
 8 Upon request of the Commission, the head of any
 9 Federal department or agency may detail, on a reim-
 10 bursable basis, any employee of that department or
 11 agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out
 12 its duties under this Act.

13 (5) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-**
 14 **MITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chair of the Commission
 15 may procure temporary and intermittent services
 16 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

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

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

20 (1) the date that is 30 days after the date the
 21 completion of the activities under this Act honoring
 22 the centennial observation of World War I; and

23 (2) July 28, 2019.

24 (b) **APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-**
 25 **MITTEE ACT.**—

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

5 (2) EXCEPTION.—Section 14(a)(2) of such Act
6 shall not apply to the Commission.

7 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

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

16 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
17 means the World War I Centennial Commission es-
18 tablished by section 3(a).

19 (3) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
20 term “veterans service organization” means any or-
21 ganization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
23 tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act takes effect on January 1, 2010.

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