

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2717

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

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

AN ACT

To authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

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 “Hershel ‘Woody’ Wil-
3 liams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Congress in 2021 unanimously passed, and
7 the President signed, Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C.
8 8903 note), which authorized the National Medal of
9 Honor Museum Foundation to establish on Federal
10 land in the District of Columbia a commemorative
11 work to honor the acts of valor, selfless service, and
12 sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

13 (2) The Medal of Honor was established by
14 President Abraham Lincoln and first awarded 160
15 years ago on March 25, 1863, and is part of Lin-
16 coln’s lasting and living legacy.

17 (3) In 1991, during the administration of Presi-
18 dent George H.W. Bush, this legacy was extended
19 further when National Medal of Honor Day was es-
20 tablished as March 25th of each year.

21 (4) The Medal of Honor is awarded to all
22 branches of the United States Armed Forces as our
23 nation’s highest recognition for valor in combat.

24 (5) The number of living Medal of Honor re-
25 cipients has been steadily declining, making it even

1 more crucial to honor and recognize their heroic sac-
2 rifices and inspire future generations.

3 (6) Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last World
4 War II Medal of Honor recipient, passed away in
5 2022 and laid in honor at the United States Capitol.

6 (7) The Medal of Honor represents the very
7 best of our Nation—ordinary citizens, who took ex-
8 traordinary action above and beyond the call of duty
9 and became heroes of our Republic.

10 (8) These examples inspire all citizens and ig-
11 nite within us the very spirit of America.

12 (9) The Medal of Honor rises to the level of su-
13 preme national and historical importance necessary
14 to warrant representation on the National Mall.

15 (10) Locating the National Medal of Honor
16 Monument in close proximity to the Lincoln Memo-
17 rial within the Reserve would be a respectful exten-
18 sion of his enduring legacy and recognition of what
19 ordinary people can accomplish when working for
20 the greater good.

21 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCA-**
22 **TION.**

23 (a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title
24 40, United States Code, the commemorative work author-
25 ized by section 1(a) of Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C.

1 8903 note) shall be located within the Reserve (as defined
2 in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

3 (b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS
4 ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89
5 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the
6 “Commemorative Works Act”), shall apply to the com-
7 memorative work.

Passed the House of Representatives November 8,
2023.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.