

## WORLD WAR II WOMEN'S MEMORIAL LOCATION ACT

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2290]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2290) to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act”.

#### SEC. 2. LOCATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the commemorative work to commemorate the commitment and service of the women who worked on the home front during World War II authorized by section 702 of division DD of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 117–328), may be located within—

- (1) Area I, as depicted on the map entitled “Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs”, numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003; or
- (2) the Reserve.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the term “Reserve” has the meaning given such term in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

#### PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 2290 is to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes.

## BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), any new monument or memorial in the District of Columbia or the surrounding area must be approved by an Act of Congress.<sup>1</sup> Once a commemorative work is approved, a private organization will typically have seven years to raise the required funding for the work’s construction and design. The CWA also established the “Reserve,” which broadly encompasses what is known as the National Mall. The CWA found that the Reserve was “a substantially completed work of civic art” where the siting of new commemorative works should be prohibited.<sup>2</sup> Placing a new commemorative work in the Reserve, or in specified land near the Reserve (“Area I”), requires an additional Act of Congress. While such acts are somewhat rare, Congress recently authorized locations within the Reserve for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in 2021 and for the Women’s Suffrage Monument in 2025.<sup>3</sup>

In 2023, Congress authorized the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation (Foundation) to establish a commemorative work (Memorial) on federal land in Washington, D.C., or its environs, honoring “the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.”<sup>4</sup> During that conflict, more than 18 million women, across every sector of American society, contributed to the war effort.<sup>5</sup> While the iconic image of “Rosie the Riveter” symbolized women working in industrial jobs, the broader story includes women who became welders, pilots, codebreakers, fundraisers, medical professionals, truck drivers, and community caretakers.<sup>6</sup> Their collective labor and service played a critical role in the Allied victory and permanently reshaped women’s roles in the workforce and public life.<sup>7</sup> The 2023 legislation required the Foundation to follow the standard legal framework established by the CWA and prohibited the use of federal funds for the commemorative work.<sup>8</sup>

H.R. 2290, the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act,” authorizes the placement of the Memorial in either the “Reserve” or “Area I.” Under the CWA, this additional legislation is necessary for the commemorative work to be placed on or near the National Mall. By authorizing the placement of this Memorial in a place of prominence, H.R. 2290 affirms the national significance of women who worked on the home front and ensures that they are recognized alongside existing monuments to wartime service. H.R. 2290 is a bipartisan bill co-led by Representative Fulcher (R-ID-01). Senators Shaheen (D-NH) and Blackburn (R-TN) are leading companion legislation in the Senate.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 40 U.S.C. 8901–8909.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Sec. 6605, Public Law No: 117–81. Public Law No: 118–226.

<sup>4</sup> Section 702 of Division DD of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 117–328).

<sup>5</sup> “Women in World War II,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/women-in-world-war-ii.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> S. 1088, 119th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1088>.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2290 was introduced on March 24, 2025, by Representative Debbie Dingell (D–MI). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On July 16, 2025, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill. On July 23, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2290 by unanimous consent. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D–MI) offered an amendment designated Dingell #1. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

## HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held on July 16, 2025.

## SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

*Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 names the legislation the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act.”

*Section 2. Location of commemorative work*

Section 2 authorizes the commemorative work established by Public Law 117–328, which commemorates the commitment and service of the women who worked on the home front during World War II, to be located within “Area I” or the “Reserve” in Washington, D.C.

*Section 3. Definitions*

Section 3 defines the term “Reserve” to be the same as such term is defined under the Commemorative Works Act.<sup>10</sup>

## COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

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<sup>10</sup>*Id.*

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

*Directed Rule Making.* This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

*Duplication of Existing Programs.* This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 2290 would make no changes in existing law.