

ADAMS MEMORIAL-GREAT AMERICAN HEROES ACT

OCTOBER 31, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2306]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2306) to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, 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 “Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY; LOCATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) ADAMS MEMORIAL COMMISSION.—Section 2406(l) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2032”.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—Section 1(c) of Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411; 124 Stat. 1192; 127 Stat. 3880; 133 Stat. 750) is amended—

(1) by striking “The establishment” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the establishment”; and

(2) by striking “2025” and inserting “2032”.

(c) LOCATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—Section 1 of Public Law 107–315 (116 Stat. 2763) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1. APPROVAL OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

“(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, and subject to subsection (b), the Adams Memorial shall be located within the area generally depicted as ‘Adams Memorial: Eligible Additional Area’ on the map titled ‘Adams Memorial: Eligible Additional Area’ prepared by the Adams Memorial Commission and dated February 25, 2025.

“(b) ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS.—If the Commission determines that the location described in subsection (a) is not suitable or feasible due to physical or security constraints, the commemorative work shall be located within the Reserve.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADAMS MEMORIAL.—The term ‘Adams Memorial’ means the commemorative work authorized to be established under section 1(b) of Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411).

“(2) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means the Adams Memorial Commission established under section 2406(a) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9).

“(3) RESERVE.—The term ‘Reserve’ has the meaning given such term in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.”.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 2 and section 3 of Public Law 107–315 (116 Stat. 2763) are hereby repealed.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 2306 is to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, 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.¹ 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.² The CWA also established the “Reserve,” which broadly encompasses what is known as the National Mall.³ The CWA found that the Reserve was “a substantially completed work of civic art” where the siting of new commemorative works should be prohibited.⁴ Placing a new commemorative work in the Reserve, or in specified land near the Reserve (Area I), requires an additional Act of Congress. While this is somewhat rare, most recently Congress authorized a location within the Reserve for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in 2021 and the Women’s Suffrage Monument in 2025.⁵

The Adams family is one of the most influential founding families in American history and made invaluable contributions to American democracy. John Adams served as the first Vice President and second President of the United States.⁶ Abigail Adams is remembered as a prolific writer and early advocate for women’s rights and abolition.⁷ John Quincy Adams served as Secretary of State, the sixth President, and later as a member of the House of Representatives.⁸ Despite their significant public service, the Adams family has no memorial dedicated to them in Washington, D.C. Conversely, four other Presidents have memorials and monuments within the Reserve, including Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.⁹

¹ 40 U.S.C. 8901–8909.

² *Id.*

³ Straus, Jacob R., “Commemorative Works Act: Siting Memorials in the District of Columbia,” Congressional Research Service, September 23, 2024, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11937>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Sec. 6605, Public Law 117–81. Public Law 118–226.

⁶ “John Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Adams-president-of-United-States/Continental-Congress>.

⁷ “Abigail Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abigail-Adams>.

⁸ “John Quincy Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Quincy-Adams>.

⁹ “Presidential Sites,” National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/nama/learn/historyculture/presidential-sites.htm>.

For more than two decades, there have been ongoing efforts to create a memorial (Adams Memorial) in the nation's capital to honor the Adams family's legacy. Congress first authorized the creation of such a memorial in 2001, empowering the Adams Memorial Foundation to use private funds to construct a commemorative work on federal land.¹⁰ In 2002, Congress approved a location in Area I for the Adams Memorial, underscoring its significance.¹¹ While the Adams Memorial Foundation took initial steps to advance the project, including assembling leadership and exploring design options, the Foundation faced ongoing challenges related to site selection, approvals, and fundraising.¹² As a result, Congress twice reauthorized the Adams Memorial Foundation's authority to construct this Memorial, before the authority finally expired in 2020.¹³ In an attempt to revitalize this effort, Congress created the Adams Memorial Commission (Commission) to replace the Foundation as the entity responsible for constructing the Adams Memorial.¹⁴ The Commission's current authorization is set to expire on December 2, 2025.¹⁵

H.R. 2306, "The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act," was introduced on March 24, 2025, by Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI-02) and the late-Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11). As reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources, the bill supports the creation of the Adams Memorial in two ways. First, the legislation extends the authorization of the Commission for an additional seven years, until December 2, 2032. This will give the Commission additional time to fundraise, finalize planning and design, and complete construction of the Adams Memorial. Second, the legislation amends the statutory approval to locate the Memorial in Area I by authorizing a specific location within the Reserve selected by the Commission. If this area is later identified to not be suitable or feasible due to physical or security constraints, the legislation allows for the Memorial's construction within a different area of the Reserve. By locating the Adams Memorial in an even more prominent location, the legislation is creating parity with other Presidential memorials and demonstrating the significance of the Adams family's contribution to the founding of our nation. By recognizing and commemorating this founding family ahead of America's 250th anniversary in 2026, the bill advances the goals of President Trump's Executive Order 14189, "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday."¹⁶

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2306 was introduced on March 24, 2025, by Representative John Moolenaar (R-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 September 17, 2025, the Com-

¹⁰ Public Law 107-62.

¹¹ Public Law 107-315.

¹² H. Rept. 115-566.

¹³ Public Law 113-291.

¹⁴ Public Law 116-9.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ A Presidential Document by the Executive Office of the President, "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday," February 3, 2025, Executive Order 14189, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/03/2025-02231/celebrating-americas-250th-birthday>.

mittee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2306 by unanimous consent. Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Westerman 034 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute 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 bill the “The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”.

Section 2. Extension of Authority; Location of Memorial

Section 2 amends the “John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act” to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission to 2032. Section 2 also amends the original statute establishing the Adams Memorial (Public Law 107–62) to insert technical and conforming amendments. Finally, Section 2 amends Public Law 107–315 to amend the approved location for the Adams Memorial from Area 1 to an area within the Reserve identified on a map titled “Adams Memorial: Eligible Additional Area” prepared by the Adams Memorial Commission on February 25, 2025. Section 2 stipulates that if the Commission determines that the location on the map is not suitable or feasible due to physical or security constraints, the Adams Memorial shall be located in a different area within the Reserve. Finally, Section 2 makes additional technical and conforming amendments and provides for definitions of key terms.

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.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of Rule XIII, the general performance goal or objec-

tive of this bill is to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, 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 MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

JOHN D. DINGELL, JR. CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND RECREATION ACT

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TITLE II—NATIONAL PARKS

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Subtitle E—National Park System Management

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SEC. 2406. ADAMS MEMORIAL COMMISSION.

(a) COMMISSION.—There is established a commission to be known as the “Adams Memorial Commission” (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) for the purpose of establishing a permanent memorial to honor John Adams and his legacy as authorized by Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411), located in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, including sites authorized by Public Law 107–315 (116 Stat. 2763).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of—

(1) 4 persons appointed by the President, not more than 2 of whom may be members of the same political party;

(2) 4 Members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate in consultation with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, of which not more than 2 appointees may be members of the same political party; and

(3) 4 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, of which not more than 2 appointees may be members of the same political party.

(c) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The members of the Commission shall select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission. The Chair and Vice Chair shall not be members of the same political party.

(d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers if a quorum is present, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(e) MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

(f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(g) NO COMPENSATION.—A member of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

(h) DUTIES.—The Commission shall consider and formulate plans for a permanent memorial to honor John Adams and his legacy, including the nature, location, design, and construction of the memorial.

(i) POWERS.—The Commission may—

(1) make such expenditures for services and materials for the purpose of carrying out this section as the Commission con-

siders advisable from funds appropriated or received as gifts for that purpose;

(2) accept gifts, including funds from the Adams Memorial Foundation, to be used in carrying out this section or to be used in connection with the construction or other expenses of the memorial; and

(3) hold hearings, enter into contracts for personal services and otherwise, and do such other things as are necessary to carry out this section.

(j) REPORTS.—The Commission shall—

(1) report the plans required by subsection (h), together with recommendations, to the President and the Congress at the earliest practicable date; and

(2) in the interim, make annual reports on its progress to the President and the Congress.

(k) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(l) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on December 2, **[2025]** 2032.

(m) AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 107–62.—

(1) REFERENCES TO COMMISSION.—Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411) is amended by striking “Adams Memorial Foundation” each place it occurs and inserting “Adams Memorial Commission”.

(2) EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 1(c) of Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411; 124 Stat. 1192; 127 Stat. 3880) is amended by striking “2020” and inserting “2025”.

* * * * *

PUBLIC LAW 107–62

AN ACT To authorize the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams and his legacy.

SECTION 1. COMMEMORATIVE WORK TO HONOR JOHN ADAMS AND HIS LEGACY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Few families have contributed as profoundly to the United States as the family that gave the Nation its second president, John Adams; its sixth president, John Quincy Adams; first ladies Abigail Smith Adams and Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams; and succeeding generations of statesmen, diplomats, advocates, and authors.

(2) John Adams (1735-1826), a lawyer, a statesman, and a patriot, was the author of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the oldest written constitution still in force), the leader of the Second Continental Congress, a driving force for independence, a negotiator of the Treaty of Paris (which brought the Revolutionary War to an end), the first Vice President, the second President, and an unwavering exponent of freedom of conscience and the rule of law.

(3) Abigail Smith Adams (1744-1818) was one of the most remarkable women of her time. Wife of former President John Adams and mother of former President John Quincy Adams,

she was an early advocate for the rights of women and served the cause of liberty as a prolific writer, fierce patriot, and staunch abolitionist.

(4) John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), the son of John and Abigail Adams, was a distinguished lawyer, legislator, and diplomat and a master of 7 languages, who served as Senator, Minister to the Netherlands under President George Washington, Minister to Prussia under the first President Adams, Minister to Great Britain under President James Madison, chief negotiator of the Treaty of Ghent (which ended the War of 1812), Secretary of State under President James Monroe, author of the Monroe Doctrine (which declared the Western Hemisphere off limits to European imperial expansion), sixth President, and the only former President to be elected to the House of Representatives, where he was known as “Old Man Eloquent” and served with great distinction as a leader in the fight against slavery and a champion of unpopular causes.

(5) Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams (1775-1852), the wife of former President John Quincy Adams, was an educated, accomplished woman and the only first lady born outside the United States. Like Abigail Adams, she wrote eloquently on behalf of the rights of women and in opposition to slavery.

(6) Charles Francis Adams (1807-1886), the son of John Quincy and Louisa Adams, served 6 years in the Massachusetts legislature, was a steadfast abolitionist who received the Free Soil Party’s vice-presidential nomination in 1848, was elected to his father’s seat in the House of Representatives in 1856, and served as ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War, where his efforts were decisive in preventing the British Government from recognizing the independence of the Confederacy.

(7) Henry Adams (1838-1918), the son of Charles Francis Adams, was an eminent writer, scholar, historian, and public intellectual, and was the author of many celebrated works, including “Democracy”, “The Education of Henry Adams”, and his 9-volume “History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison”.

(8) Both individually and collectively, the members of this illustrious family have enriched the Nation through their profound civic consciousness, abiding belief in the perfectibility of the Nation’s democracy, and commitment to service and sacrifice for the common good.

(9) Although the Congress has authorized the establishment of commemorative works on Federal lands in the District of Columbia honoring such celebrated former Presidents as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, the National Capital has no comparable memorial to former President John Adams.

(10) In recognition of the 200th anniversary of the end of the presidency of John Adams, the time has come to correct this oversight so that future generations of Americans will know and understand the preeminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation of his contributions and those of his family.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.**—The Adams Memorial Commission may establish a commemorative

work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams, along with his wife Abigail Adams and former President John Quincy Adams, and the family's legacy of public service.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—~~【The establishment】~~ *Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the establishment* of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, except that any reference in section 8903(e) of that chapter to the expiration at the end of or extension beyond a seven-year period shall be considered to be a reference to an expiration on or extension beyond December 2, ~~【2025】~~ 2032.

(d) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work. The Adams Memorial Commission shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.

(e) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHED MEMORIAL.—

(1) If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial Commission shall transmit the amount of the balance to the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial Commission shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided for in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.

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PUBLIC LAW 107-315

AN ACT Approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President John Adams.

【SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

【Congress approves the location for the commemorative work to honor former President John Adams and his legacy, as authorized by Public Law 107-62 (115 Stat. 411), within Area I as described in section 8908 of title 40, United States Code, subject to the limitation in section 2.】

SEC. 1. APPROVAL OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

(a) *SITE.*—*Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, and subject to subsection (b), the Adams Memorial shall be located within the area generally depicted as “Adams Me-*

morial: Eligible Additional Area” on the map titled “Adams Memorial: Eligible Additional Area” prepared by the Adams Memorial Commission and dated February 25, 2025.

(b) ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS.—If the Commission determines that the location described in subsection (a) is not suitable or feasible due to physical or security constraints, the commemorative work shall be located within the Reserve.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADAMS MEMORIAL.—The term “Adams Memorial” means the commemorative work authorized to be established under section 1(b) of Public Law 107–62 (115 Stat. 411).

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Adams Memorial Commission established under section 2406(a) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9).

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

[SEC. 2. LIMITATION.

[The commemorative work approved in section 1 shall not be located within the Reserve.

[SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF RESERVE.

[In this resolution the term “Reserve” means the area of The National Mall extending from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, as depicted on the map entitled “Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs,” numbered 869/86501A and dated May 1, 2002.]