Monuments and Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act in the District of Columbia: Current Development of In Progress and Lapsed Works

Updated May 5, 2023
Monuments and Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act in the District of Columbia: Current Development of In Progress and Lapsed Works

Under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) of 1986, Congress may authorize commemorative works to be placed in the District of Columbia or its environs. Once a commemorative work has been authorized, Congress continues to be responsible for statutorily designating a memorial site location.

This report provides a status update on 18 in-progress memorials, 7 memorials with lapsed authorizations, and 1 with a repealed authorization. For each monument or memorial, the report provides a rationale for the work as expressed in the Congressional Record or a House or Senate committee report; its statutory authority; the group or groups sponsoring the commemoration; and the memorial’s location (or proposed location), if known. A picture or rendering of each work is also included, when available.

Contents

Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1

Commemorative Works Areas of the District of Columbia.................................................. 1
  Reserve .................................................................................................................. 2
  Area I ..................................................................................................................... 2
  Area II .................................................................................................................... 2

Factors Potentially Influencing Commemorative Works’ Completion .................................. 2
  Site Location ......................................................................................................... 3
  Design Approval ................................................................................................... 3
  Fundraising ........................................................................................................... 3

Authorized Commemorative Works .................................................................................. 4

In-Progress Commemorative Works .................................................................................. 5
  Memorials Under Construction ............................................................................... 6
    Desert Storm and Desert Shield ............................................................................ 6
    World War II D-Day Prayer .................................................................................. 8
  Memorials Being Designed ..................................................................................... 10
    Second Division Memorial Additions .................................................................... 10
    Peace Corps ....................................................................................................... 11
    First Division Monument Modifications ............................................................. 13
    Global War on Terrorism Memorial .................................................................... 14
  Site Locations to Be Determined .............................................................................. 16
  John Adams and His Family’s Legacy ....................................................................... 16
    National Liberty Memorial (Slaves and Free Black Persons Who Served in the
    Revolutionary War) ............................................................................................. 17
    Emergency Medical Services Memorial ............................................................... 19
    Republic of Texas Legation ................................................................................... 20
    Fallen Journalists ................................................................................................. 20
    Women’s Suffrage Movement Memorial .............................................................. 21
    Medal of Honor Memorial ..................................................................................... 22
    Women Who Worked on the Home Front in World War II ................................... 22
    National Service Animals and Handlers .............................................................. 23
    Jean Monnet ....................................................................................................... 24
    Enslaved Individuals Who Endured the Middle Passage ....................................... 24
    Thomas Paine ..................................................................................................... 25

Commemorative Works with Lapsed, Replaced, or Repealed Authorizations ....................... 25
  Lapsed Authorization With Reauthorizing Legislation Introduced in the 117th Congress .......................................................... 26
    Gold Star Mothers ............................................................................................... 26
  Lapsed Authorization Without Reauthorizing Legislation Introduced in the 117th Congress .......................................................... 27
    National Peace Garden ....................................................................................... 27
    Benjamin Banneker ............................................................................................. 28
    Frederick Douglass ............................................................................................. 28
    Brigadier General Francis Marion ........................................................................ 29
    Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center ...................................................... 29
  Replaced Authorization ........................................................................................... 30
    Thomas Paine ..................................................................................................... 30
Repealed Authorization........................................................................................................... 31
Black Revolutionary War Patriots.......................................................................................... 31

**Figures**

Figure 1. National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial .................................. 8
Figure 2. World War II D-Day Prayer Plaque Approved Design ......................................... 9
Figure 3. Second Division Memorial .................................................................................. 11
Figure 4. Peace Corps Memorial ......................................................................................... 12
Figure 5. First Division Monument .................................................................................... 14
Figure 6. National Liberty Memorial ................................................................................... 18

**Tables**

Table 1. In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials in the District of Columbia and Its Environs ....... 4

**Contacts**

Author Information.................................................................................................................. 32
Introduction

Since November 1986, the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) has provided the legal framework for the placement of commemorative works in the District of Columbia. Congress enacted the CWA to establish a statutory process for ensuring “that future commemorative works in areas administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the General Services Administration (GSA) in the District of Columbia and its environs (1) are appropriately designed, constructed, and located and (2) reflect a consensus of the lasting significance of the subjects involved.” Areas administered by other agencies are not subject to the CWA. Responsibility for overseeing the design, construction, and maintenance of such works was delegated to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of the GSA, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Additionally, the CWA restricts placement of commemorative works to certain areas of the District of Columbia based on the subject’s historic importance.

Pursuant to the CWA, locating a commemorative work on federally owned and administered land in the District of Columbia requires the federal government to maintain the memorial unless otherwise stipulated in the enabling legislation. In some cases, however, authorized memorials are ultimately sited on land that falls outside of CWA jurisdiction and outside the boundaries of the District of Columbia and its environs. For example, Congress authorized the Air Force Memorial for placement on land owned and administered by either NPS or GSA in the District of Columbia. Memorial organizers, however, chose a site near the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, that is owned and administered by the Department of Defense. Consequently, the Department of Defense, not the NPS or GSA, is responsible for maintenance.

This report highlights in-progress works and memorials with lapsed authorizations since the passage of the CWA in 1986. The report provides information—located within text boxes for easy reference—on the statute(s) authorizing the work; the sponsor organization; statutory legislative extensions, if any; and the memorial’s location or proposed location, if known. A picture or rendering of each work is also included, when available.

Commemorative Works Areas of the District of Columbia

The CWA divides areas administered by the NPS and the GSA in the District of Columbia and its environs into three sections for the placement of memorials: the Reserve, Area I, and Area II. For

---

2 Whether oversight of the design, construction, and maintenance of commemorative works authorized pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act falls to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of the General Services Administration is determined by who administers the land on which the memorial is to be constructed. In all cases to date, the Secretary of the Interior has been the oversight official, as all authorized commemorative works have been placed or are scheduled to be placed on National Park Service land.
3 Pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. §8903(e)(1)), all sponsor groups are provided with a seven-year period to complete the work necessary to complete (i.e., dedicate) the memorial. This time period can be extended administratively if the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services issues a construction permit, or if Congress amends the initial statute to provide for additional time to complete the memorial’s design and construction. For more information, see CRS Report R41658, *Commemorative Works in the District of Columbia: Background and Practice*, by Jacob R. Straus.
In each area, the standards for memorial placement are specified in law, and congressional approval of monument location is required.

**Reserve**

The Reserve was created in November 2003, by P.L. 108-126, to prohibit the addition of future memorials in an area defined as “the great cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial.”  Under the act, this area is considered “a substantially completed work of civic art.” Within this area, “to preserve the integrity of the Mall … the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited.”

**Area I**

Created as part of the original CWA in 1986, Area I is reserved for commemorative works of “preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States.” Area I is roughly bounded by the West Front of the Capitol; Pennsylvania Avenue NW (between 1st and 15th Streets NW); Lafayette Square; 17th Street NW (between H Street and Constitution Avenue); Constitution Avenue NW (between 17th and 23rd Streets); the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts waterfront area; Theodore Roosevelt Island; National Park Service land in Virginia surrounding the George Washington Memorial Parkway; the 14th Street Bridge area; and Maryland Avenue SW, from Maine Avenue SW, to Independence Avenue SW, at the U.S. Botanic Garden.

**Area II**

Also created as part of the original CWA statute, Area II is reserved for “subjects of lasting historical significance to the American people.” Area II encompasses all sections of the District of Columbia and its environs not part of the Reserve or Area I.

**Factors Potentially Influencing Commemorative Works’ Completion**

Several factors may affect a memorial foundation’s ability to complete a memorial. These include settling on a desired site location, getting design approval, and raising the funds necessary to design and build a commemorative work.

---


7 40 U.S.C. §8908(b)(1). The Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, after seeking the advice of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, can recommend that a memorial be placed in Area I. If either the Secretary or the Administrator recommends placement in Area I, he or she must notify the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Secretary or the Administrator notifies Congress by sending a letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. If the recommendation is not enacted into law within 150 calendar days, the recommendation is not adopted and the memorial sponsor must consider sites in Area II.

Site Location

Choosing a memorial site location is one of the biggest tasks for all authorized sponsor groups. Many groups want locations on or near the National Mall. The creation of the Reserve in 2003, however, makes placement of a future memorial on the National Mall difficult. Subsequently, many sponsor groups attempt to locate sites as close to the National Mall as possible in order to ensure that visitors have easy access to the memorial. For example, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial is located on land directly south of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, thus providing a prominent—just off the Mall—location.

Likewise, the foundation previously authorized to construct a memorial to honor John Adams and his family’s legacy evaluated site locations as close to the National Mall as possible.

Design Approval

In 1986, as part of the CWA, Congress authorized the NCPC and the CFA to approve memorial designs. The NCPC and the CFA were tasked with carrying out the goals of the CWA, which are

(1) to preserve the integrity of the comprehensive design of the L’Enfant and McMillan plans for the Nation’s Capital; (2) to ensure the continued public use and enjoyment of open space in the District of Columbia and its environs, and to encourage the location of commemorative works within the urban fabric of the District of Columbia; (3) to preserve, protect, and maintain the limited amount of open space available to residents of, and visitors to, the Nation’s Capital; and (4) to ensure that future commemorative works in areas administered by the National Park Service and the Administrator of General Services in the District of Columbia and its environs are … appropriately designed, constructed, and located; and … reflect a consensus of lasting national significance of the subjects involved.

In some instances, sponsor groups have difficulty creating a memorial vision that meets the specifications of the NCPC, CFA, and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC). In these cases, groups will often have to present multiple designs to these bodies before getting final design approval. For example, the Eisenhower Memorial Commission has presented variations on the design for the Eisenhower Memorial to the NCPC multiple times. In all instances, the NCPC gave feedback to the memorial design team and asked them to continue work to comply with NCPC guidelines for memorial construction.

Fundraising

Perhaps the most challenging step in the commemorative works process for many sponsor groups is raising the necessary funds to design and build a commemorative work. Although most sponsor groups do not anticipate fundraising difficulties, some groups have experienced challenges.

---

10 For a further discussion of memorial siting, see CRS In Focus IF11937, Commemorative Works Act: Siting Memorials in the District of Columbia, by Jacob R. Straus.
12 For example, the National Capital Planning Commission’s web page on the Eisenhower Memorial lists five formal presentations by the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. For more information, see National Capital Planning Commission, “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial,” at https://www.ncpc.gov/projects/eisenhower/.
Failure to raise the necessary funds can be used as a reason not to extend a memorial’s authorization beyond the initial seven-year period. In some cases, even though the CWA generally prohibits the use of federal funds for memorial design and construction,\textsuperscript{14} Congress has authorized appropriations to aid sponsor groups in their fundraising efforts. For example, in 2005, Congress appropriated $10 million to the Secretary of the Interior “for necessary expenses for the Memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.”\textsuperscript{15} The appropriation was designated as matching funds, making them available only after being matched by nonfederal contributions.\textsuperscript{16}

Since the enactment of the Commemorative Works Act in 1986, 43 memorials and monuments have been authorized by statute. On a yearly basis, however, legislation is pending before Congress to consider a wide range of additional commemorative works. Pursuant to the CWA, future commemorative works will continue to be considered according to congressional guidelines. If new commemorative works are authorized or currently authorized commemorative works are completed, this report will be updated accordingly.

**Authorized Commemorative Works**

Since the passage of the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) in 1986, Congress has authorized 48 commemorative works to be placed in the District of Columbia or its environs. Of these works, 18 are in progress, 7 have lapsed authorizations, and 1 had its authorization repealed. Table 1 lists commemorative works authorized by Congress since 1986 that are in progress, with authorizations that have lapsed, or with an authorization that has been repealed.

### Table 1. In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials in the District of Columbia and Its Environs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Memorial</th>
<th>Authorizing Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>John Adams and his Family’s Legacy</td>
<td>P.L. 107-62, 115 Stat. 411 (2001)\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Global War on Terrorism\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>P.L. 115-51, 131 Stat. 1003 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Second Division Memorial Modifications</td>
<td>P.L. 115-141, Division G, §121(a)(1), 132 Stat. 661 (2018)\textsuperscript{c}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{14} For example, see the statute authorizing the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial (P.L. 106-348, 114 Stat. 1358 [2000]).


In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Memorial</th>
<th>Authorizing Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Women Who Worked on the Home Front in World War II</td>
<td>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §702 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Service Animals and Handlers</td>
<td>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §704 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Jean Monnet</td>
<td>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §705 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Enslaved Individuals who Endured the Middle Passage</td>
<td>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §707 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Thomas Paine</td>
<td>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §709 (2022)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lapsed Authorizations for Commemorative Works

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Memorial</th>
<th>Authorizing Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Repealed Authorizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Memorial</th>
<th>Authorizing Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


a. The memorial to John Adams and his family’s legacy was reauthorized by P.L. 116-9, (§2406(I), 133 Stat. 749, [2019]), until December 2025.
b. P.L. 117-81 (§6605), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, authorized the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to site the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the Reserve.
c. P.L. 115-141 incorporated S. 1460, §7130 (115th Congress; Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017) to authorize modifications to the Second Division Memorial.
d. Authority for these memorials lapsed prior to construction permits being issued to the sponsoring group.
e. Legislation to reauthorize this memorial was introduced in the 117th Congress (H.R. 2365, introduced April 5, 2021, passed the House July 26, 2021, and S. 1938, introduced May 27, 2021).
f. P.L. 112-239, §2860 repealed an authorization to the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to create a Black Revolutionary War Veterans Memorial that had been authorized by P.L. 99-558 (100 Stat. 3144 [1986]). P.L. 112-239 provided a new authorization for the Slaves and Free Black Persons Who Served in the American Revolution Memorial to the National Mall Liberty Fund DC. The Liberty Fund commonly calls the memorial the National Liberty Memorial. P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §703 reauthorized and extended the Liberty Fund’s authorization until September 30, 2027.

In-Progress Commemorative Works

Currently, 18 commemorative works have active authorizations and are in various stages of development. These include the following:
Memorials Under Construction

- Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and
- World War II Prayer plaque

Memorials Being Designed

- Second Division Memorial modifications,
- Peace Corps Memorial,
- First Division Monument modifications, and
- Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Memorials Evaluating Site Locations

- John Adams and his Family’s Legacy Memorial,
- National Liberty Memorial (Slaves and Free Black Persons Who Served in the Revolutionary War),
- Emergency Medical Services Memorial,
- Texas Legation Memorial,
- Fallen Journalists Memorial,
- Women’s Suffrage Movement Memorial,
- Medal of Honor Memorial,
- Women Who Worked on the Home Front in World War II,
- Service Animals and Handlers,
- Jean Monnet,
- Enslaved Individuals who Endured the Middle Passage, and
- Thomas Paine.

Memorials Under Construction

Desert Storm and Desert Shield

In December 2014, as part of the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress authorized the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in the District of Columbia to “commemorate and honor those who, as a member of the Armed forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.”17 During debate on the House version of the bill (H.R. 503), Representative Doc Hastings, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, summarized the need for a memorial:

Over 600,000 American servicemen deployed for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and successfully led a coalition of over 30 countries to evict an invading army to secure the independence of Kuwait.

This memorial will recognize their success, but it will also serve as a commemoration of those nearly 300 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.\(^\text{18}\)

On March 31, 2017, President Trump signed S.J.Res. 1, to provide the memorial with a location in Area I.\(^\text{19}\) The memorial will be located at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue, NW, and 23rd Street, NW. In October 2021, CFA approved the revised concept design for the memorial, and in December 2022,\(^\text{20}\) NCPC approved the memorial’s final site development plans with comments.\(^\text{21}\) On July 14, 2022, the National Desert Storm Memorial Association held a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony.\(^\text{22}\) Figure 1 shows a rendering for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Veteran’s War Memorial.


\(^{19}\) P.L. 115-18, 131 Stat. 82 (2017).


World War II D-Day Prayer

In June 2014, Congress authorized the placement of a plaque containing President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s D-Day prayer at the “area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia....”23 During debate on the bill in the 112th Congress (H.R. 2070), Representative Bill Johnson summarized why he believed the prayer should be added to the World War II Memorial.

This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to install at the World War II Memorial a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin Roosevelt prayed with the Nation on the morning of the D-day invasion. This prayer, which has been entitled “Let Our Hearts Be Stout,” gave solace, comfort and strength to our Nation and our brave

---

In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

The memorial was built to honor the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and the more than 400,000 who died during the war ... I have no doubt that the prayer should be included among the tributes to the Greatest Generation memorialized on the National Mall, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.24

The prayer plaque will be located at the “Circle of Remembrance” on the northwest side of the World War II Memorial.25 Final prayer plaque design approval was granted by NCPC in June 2021,26 and by CFA in January 2022.27 On December 20, 2022, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial held an unveiling ceremony of the plaque at the Circle of Remembrance.28 A formal dedication ceremony will take place in 2023.29 Figure 2 shows the proposed location of the plaque at the Circle of Remembrance.

Figure 2. World War II D-Day Prayer Plaque Approved Design


29 Ibid.
Memorials Being Designed

Second Division Memorial Additions

On March 23, 2018, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141), modifications to the Second Division Memorial were authorized. The Second Division Memorial was initially dedicated on July 18, 1936, to commemorate the division’s World War I casualties, and “two wings were dedicated on June 20, 1962, with significant battles of World War II inscribed on the west and of the Korean War on the east.” P.L. 115-141 authorizes the placement of “additional commemorative elements or engravings on the raised platform or stone work of the existing Second Division Memorial ... to further honor the members of the Second Infantry Division who have given their lives in service to the United States.”

In November 2020, CFA reviewed proposed modifications to the Second Division Memorial. In March 2021, NCPC approved the final plans for the memorial additions. Figure 3 shows the proposed modification to the Second Division Memorial.

---


32 P.L. 115-141, Division G, §121(a)(1).


Peace Corps

In January 2014, Congress authorized the Peace Corps Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded.” During House debate on the bill (S. 230), Representative Raúl Grijalva, then-ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations, summarized his understanding of the aims of the Peace Corps Memorial:

Last November, we marked the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy’s tragic assassination. Losing President Kennedy left a lasting scar on the American psyche, but his legacy lives on through his words and ideas, including the establishment of the Peace Corps, an institution that has sent over 200,000 Americans to 139 countries in its 52-year history.

S. 230 authorizes construction of a memorial to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the values on which it was founded. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate President Kennedy’s legacy and the tremendous accomplishments of the Peace Corps.

With the passage of S. 230, we will be sending a worthwhile bill to the President’s desk. I am glad we have been able to put our differences aside and pass such a meaningful bill in the first few weeks of the new year.\textsuperscript{36}

The Peace Corps Memorial will be located between 1st Street, NW, Louisiana Avenue, NW, and C Street, NW, in the District of Columbia. In November 2021, the Peace Corps Memorial Foundation received preliminary design approval with comments from CFA.\textsuperscript{37} In September 2022, NCPC approved the memorial’s preliminary site development plans.\textsuperscript{38}

In the 116\textsuperscript{th} Congress, the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation’s authority to construct a memorial was extended until January 24, 2028.\textsuperscript{39} Figure 4 shows the concept design for the Peace Corps Memorial as presented to CFA and NCPC.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure4.png}
\caption{Peace Corps Memorial Concept Design}
\end{figure}

\textbf{Source:} Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation, “View of threshold between benches.”

\begin{table}[h]
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
\textbf{Sponsor Organization:} & Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (https://www.peacecorpscommemorative.org) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}


In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statutory Extension:</th>
<th>Authorization extended through January 24, 2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Area II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Division Monument Modifications

On January 1, 2021, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116-283, §1083), modifications to the First Division Monument were authorized. The First Division Monument was initially dedicated on October 4, 1924, to “honor the 5,516 soldiers of the First Division who lost their lives during World War I.” In 1957, the monument was modified to honor the 4,325 soldiers who died in World War II, in 1977 it was modified to honor soldiers from the Vietnam War, and in 1995 it was modified to include a plaque to honor soldiers from Desert Storm.

P.L. 116-283 authorizes modifications “to honor the dead of the First Infantry Division, United States Forces, in (1) Operation Desert Storm; (2) Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn; and (3) Operation Enduring Freedom.” In December 2021, NCPC approved comments on the concept plan. In March 2023, CFA approved the final plans for additional monuments and plaques at the memorial. Figure 5 shows the current design of the First Division Monument.

---

In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

Figure 5. First Division Monument


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Society of the First Infantry Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://www.1stid.org">https://www.1stid.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global War on Terrorism Memorial

In August 2017, Congress authorized the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.” During debate on the bill (H.R. 873) in the House, Representative Tom McClintock, then chair of the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, stated why a memorial to the Global War on Terrorism is important, despite a statutory prohibition against war memorials for ongoing conflicts.

The Commemorative Works Act requires that a war be ended for at least 10 years before planning can commence on a national memorial. There is good reason for this requirement: it gives history the insight to place the war in an historic context and to begin to fully appreciate its full significance to our country and future generations.

But the war on terrorism has been fought in a decidedly different way than our past wars. We are now approaching the 16th anniversary of the attack on New York and Washington. The veterans who sacrificed so much to keep that war away from our shores deserve some tangible and lasting tribute to their patriotism and altruism while they, their families, and

---

46 40 U.S.C. §8903(b) and (c).
In their fellow countrymen can know it. The Gold Star families of our fallen heroes for whom the war will never end deserve some assurance that their sons and daughters will never be forgotten by a grateful Nation.

We should remember that many of our Nation’s heroes from World War II never lived to see the completion of the World War II Memorial, which was completed 59 years after the end of that conflict.

For these reasons, this measure suspends the 10-year period in current law. It doesn’t repeal it. It merely sets it aside for the unique circumstances of the current war on terrorism.47

On December 27, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation that authorizes the Global War on Terrorism memorial to be located in the Reserve and provides that the memorial is otherwise subject to the CWA.48 The legislation states:

The National Global War on Terrorism Memorial authorized by section 2(a) of the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; P.L. 115-51; 131 Stat. 1003) (referred to in this section as the “Memorial”) shall be located within the Reserve.49

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation is currently conducting site evaluations focused on three locations: Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street, NW; Constitution Gardens; and along the Potomac River on Ohio Drive.50 The foundation presented its site selection study to the NCMAC in October 2022,51 to the CFA in March 2023,52 and to NCPC in April 2023.53

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation (<a href="https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org">https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48 P.L. 117-81, §6605, 135 Stat. 2442 (2021). In the 116th Congress (H.R. 5046 and S. 4564) and the 117th Congress (H.R. 1115 and S. 535), legislation was introduced to authorize the siting of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the Reserve at three specific sites: Constitution Gardens, the JFK Hockey Fields, and West Potomac Park. P.L. 117-81 does not provide specific site locations for consideration.
49 P.L. 117-81, §6605(a).
Site Locations to Be Determined

John Adams and His Family’s Legacy

In November 2001, Congress authorized 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, along with his wife Abigail Adams and former President John Quincy Adams, and the family’s legacy of public service.” In remarks during debate on the bill (H.R. 1668), Representative Joel Hefley summarized the importance of the Adams family to American history:

Perhaps no American family has contributed as profoundly to public service as the family that gave the Nation its second President, John Adams; his wife, Abigail Adams; and their son, our sixth President, John Quincy Adams, who was also, by the way, a member of this body. The family’s legacy was far reaching, continuing with John Quincy Adams’s son, Charles Francis Adams, who was also a member of this body and an ambassador to England during the Civil War; and his son, Henry Adams, an eminent writer and scholar, and it goes on and on.  

In March 2019, as part of the enactment of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Congress created the Adams Memorial Commission. The Adams Memorial Commission replaces the Adams Memorial Foundation as the memorial’s sponsor. Moving forward, the commission will be responsible for all aspects of the memorial’s siting, design, and construction.

Previously, in December 2013, the Adams Memorial Foundation’s authorization expired. Prior to its lapse of authorization, the Adams Memorial Foundation was working with the NCMAC on the potential recommendation of Area I. While the commission had not endorsed any particular site location, it had recommended that the foundation continue its examination of numerous sites in the District of Columbia in order to find a suitable location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Adams Memorial Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(P.L. 116-9, §2406(f), 133 Stat. 749 [2019])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extensions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

56 P.L. 116-9, §2406, 133 Stat. 748 (2019). The commission consists of 12 members: four appointed by the President; four Senators appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate in consultation with the Senate majority leader and the Senate minority leader; and four Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the House majority leader and the House minority leader.
National Liberty Memorial (Slaves and Free Black Persons Who Served in the Revolutionary War)

In December 2012, Congress authorized the National Mall Liberty Fund DC to establish a commemorative work “to honor the more than 5,000 courageous slaves and free Black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution.”60 Additionally, P.L. 112-239 repealed a 1986 authorization to the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work for black Revolutionary War veterans (discussed further in the section below on “Repealed Authorization”).61

In prepared remarks to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Joseph Lieberman summarized the need, from his perspective, for a memorial to African Americans who served in the Revolutionary War:

Throughout our history the sacrifices of these remarkable patriots have often been relegated to a mere footnote. This is unfortunate not only because it overlooks their service, but also because it prevents us from taking an honest, nuanced view of our nation’s history. By establishing a memorial to honor African Americans’ contributions to our nation’s founding, we will broaden all Americans’ understanding of the diversity of the patriots who helped to secure our independence.62

Further, in the Senate report accompanying the 2012 authorization (S. 883, 112th Congress), the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources summarized the history of memorializing Black Revolutionary War veterans in the District of Columbia.

In 1986, Congress authorized the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial Foundation to establish the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial to honor the 5,000 courageous slaves and free Black persons who served as soldiers or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution (P.L. 99-558).

In 1987 Congress enacted a second law, P.L. 100-265, authorizing placement of that memorial within the monumental core area as it was then defined by the Commemorative Works Act. In 1988, the National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission approved a site in Constitution Gardens for the

---

60 P.L. 112-239, §2860(f) repeals P.L. 99-558 (100 Stat. 3144 [1986]), as amended by P.L. 99-590 (100 Stat. 3330 [1986]); and P.L. 99-591 (100 Stat. 3341 [1986]), which authorized the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia “the estimated five thousand courageous slaves and free black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution and to honor countless black men, women, and children who ran away from slavery or filed petitions with courts and legislatures seeking their freedom.”

Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial and, in 1996, approved the final design. Despite four extensions of the memorial’s legislative authorization over 21 years, the Foundation was unable to raise sufficient funds for construction, the authority (and associated site and design approvals) finally lapsed in October 2005, and the Foundation disbanded with numerous outstanding debts and unpaid creditors.

S. 883 would authorize another nonprofit organization, the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C., to construct a commemorative work honoring the same individuals as proposed by the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial Foundation, subject to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act.63

On September 26, 2014, President Obama signed H.J.Res. 120 to provide the memorial with a location in Area I.64 In December 2022, Congress extended the National Mall Liberty Fund’s authority to construct a memorial until September 30, 2027.65 Previously, the Fund’s authority had expired in January 2020. Figure 6 shows a memorial concept design.

Figure 6. National Liberty Memorial
Concept Design


64 P.L. 113-176, 128 Stat. 1910 (2014). See also, “Approval of Memorial to Commemorative Slaves and Free Black Persons who Fought in the American Revolution,” Congressional Record, daily edition, vol. 160 (September 8, 2014), pp. H7273-H7274; and “Approving the Location of an American Revolution Memorial,” Congressional Record, daily edition, vol. 160 (September 11, 2014), p. S5518. Prior to the Liberty Memorial Fund’s authorization expiration in 2020, it had publicly expressed interest in three sites: the National Mall at 14th Street and Independence Avenue, NW; Freedom Plaza; and Virginia Avenue and 19th Streets, NW, with a strong preference for the National Mall site, which is currently under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (http://libertyfunddc.com/site-selection-2). In the 114th Congress (2015-2016), legislation was introduced to designate the Secretary of Agriculture as the officer “responsible for the consideration of the site and design proposals and the submission of such proposals on behalf of the sponsor to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission” in order to apply the CWA to the memorial. H.R. 1949 (114th Congress), passed the House on September 16, 2015. On March 17, 2016, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 1949. Additionally, the provisions of H.R. 1949 were also included as a House amendment to S. 2012, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016. S. 2012 passed the Senate and the House in different forms, and a conference was held. No further action on S. 2012 occurred in the 114th Congress. No further action was taken on the measure.

65 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §703 (2022).
Emergency Medical Services Memorial

In October 2018, Congress authorized the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the commitment and service represented by emergency medical services.” During House debate on the bill (H.R. 1037), Representative Tom McClintock, then chair of the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, stated why he considered a memorial to the emergency medical services providers to be important:

Mr. Speaker, each year 850,000 EMS providers answer more than 30 million calls to serve 22 million patients in need at a moment’s notice and without reservation. For these heroes who serve on the front lines of medicine, sacrifice is a part of their calling. EMTs and paramedics have a rate of injury that is about three times the national average for all occupations, and some pay the ultimate price in the service of helping others.

The men and women of the emergency medical services profession face danger every day to save lives and help their neighbors in crisis. They respond to incidents ranging from a single person’s medical emergency to natural and manmade disasters, including terrorist attacks. But while their first responder peers in law enforcement and firefighting have been honored with national memorials, EMS providers have not.

In October 2019, the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation presented its site selection study to CFA, and in December 2019 to NCPC.

---

Republic of Texas Legation

In December 2020, Congress authorized the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “honor those who, as representatives of the Republic of Texas, served in the District of Columbia as diplomats to the United States and made possible the annexation of Texas as the twenty-eighth State of the United States.” During House debate on the bill (H.R. 3349), Representative Deb Haaland, then chair of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, stated why she considered a memorial to the Republic of Texas Legation to be important:

Shortly after Texas declared its independence from Mexico in 1836, the Republic of Texas sent diplomats to several countries to represent the Republic’s interests. Among other things, these diplomats advocated for protection from Mexico, financial assistance, and annexation by the United States.

London and Paris have each erected commemorative works to recognize the role their Texas legations played in their countries, and it seems only fitting to install one here in the capital of the country proud to claim Texas as its own.

In late 2021, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas presented their site selection study to the CFA (November 2021), and NCPC (December 2021). Preferred areas for the memorial are located in Area II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Daughters of the Republic of Texas (<a href="https://www.drtinfo.org">https://www.drtinfo.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fallen Journalists

In December 2020, Congress authorized the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate America’s commitment to a free press by honoring journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause.” During House debate on the bill (H.R. 3465), Representative Deb Haaland, then chair of the National

---

In Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, stated why she considered a memorial to fallen journalists to be important:

Every day, journalists at home and abroad place their lives at risk in pursuit of the truth and in defense of our First Amendment right to a free and independent press.

In 2018 alone, nearly 80 journalists from around the world were murdered in their line of work. Yet, with the closure of the Newseum earlier this year, there is no memorial that commemorates those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while fulfilling their duty to deliver the news.

The memorial envisioned in H.R. 3465 would be a fitting tribute to their sacrifices and an affirmation of our Nation’s commitment to a free press.77

In December 2022, Congress authorized the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to site the memorial in Area I.78 In April 2023, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation presented its site selection study to NCPC,79 and to CFA.80 The Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation has identified four preferential sites. They are Edward Murrow Park (between 18th and 19th Streets, NW), Freedom Plaza (intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street, NW), Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW, and Maryland Avenue and Independence Avenue, SW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://www.fallenjournalists.org">https://www.fallenjournalists.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Area I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women’s Suffrage Movement Memorial

In December 2020, Congress authorized the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the women’s suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.”82 During House debate on the bill (H.R. 473), Representative Joe Neguse stated why he considered a memorial to the 19th Amendment to be important:

“Every word we utter, every act we perform, waft unto innumerable circles beyond.” Those are the words Elizabeth Cady Stanton that inspired the movement for H.R. 473, which will create Washington, D.C.’s first statue memorializing the women’s suffrage movement.

---

78 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §708 (2022).
81 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §708 (2022).
Today, we have the opportunity to honor the diverse and multigenerational group of women who fought for decades to secure women the right to vote.\(^{83}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>Every Word We Utter Monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://www.womensmonument.org">https://www.womensmonument.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Medal of Honor Memorial**

In December 2021, Congress authorized the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.”\(^{84}\) During House debate on the bill (H.R. 1664), the bill’s sponsor, Representative Marc Veasey, stated why he considered a memorial to Medal of Honor recipients important:

> This bill honors our Nation’s brave servicemembers by paving the way for the creation of a monument in our Nation’s Capital recognizing the Medal of Honor and its more than 3,500 recipients.

> Our Nation’s Medal of Honor recipients are patriots. They have put their lives on the line to ensure we can live freely and prosperously in the greatest nation on Earth. That is why I am happy to have spearheaded this from the beginning and pay homage to the values the Medal of Honor represents—courage, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, commitment, and sacrifice—and the brave individuals who earned it in service to our country.\(^{85}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://mohmuseum.org">https://mohmuseum.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Women Who Worked on the Home Front in World War II**

In December 2022, Congress authorized the Women Who Worked the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.”\(^{86}\) During House consideration of a standalone bill to authorize the memorial (H.R. 3531), Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton stated why she considered a memorial to women who worked on the home front in World War II important:

---


\(^{86}\) P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §702(a) (2022).
This bill would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a memorial to honor these women. The memorial is designed to be interactive and to educate visitors on the important role women played during World War II.

Between 1940 and 1945, the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent. By 1945, one in four married women worked outside the home. The work done by women on the home front opened the doors for women in the workplace widely and has had a profound and lasting effect on the job market ever since.87

### Authorization Statute
P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §702 (2022)

### Sponsor Organization
The Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation  
(https://wwiiwomenmemorial.org)

### Statutory Extension
N/A

### Location
TBD

### Dedication
TBD

---

### National Service Animals and Handlers

In December 2022, Congress authorized the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States.”88 During debate on a standalone bill to authorize the memorial (H.R. 6353), Representative Raúl Grijalva, then chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, stated why he considered a memorial to service animals important:

The bill recognizes the National Service Animals Monument Corporation’s mission to honor and recognize the broad scope of service animals through a memorial to educate the public of the contributions by service animals and of the human-animal bond between service animals and their handlers.

The memorial will ensure that the contributions of service and working animals are understood, and that their history is not forgotten.

In doing so, the bill recognizes the lifesaving and life-sustaining service these animals so generously provide to our communities.89

### Authorization Statute
P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §704 (2022)

### Sponsor Organization
National Service Animals Monument Corporation  
(https://nationalserviceanimalsmonument.org)

### Statutory Extension
N/A

### Location
TBD

### Dedication
TBD

---


Jean Monnet

In December 2022, Congress authorized the Embassy of France in Washington, DC to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet with respect to—(1) restoring peace between European nations; and (2) establishing the European Union.” During debate on a standalone bill to authorize the memorial (H.R. 6611), Representative Jim Costa stated why he considered a memorial to Jean Monnet important:

Jean Monnet was a distinguished French diplomat whose efforts in the immediate post-World War II era were instrumental in the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, which was a precursor to what eventually became the European Union (EU). Monnet is widely considered a “founding father” of the EU. His vision argued that a unified and economically integrated Europe would lead to long-term peace and stability on the continent.

Monnet was a strong ally and partner of the United States. He spent time in Washington, D.C. during World War II and was a strong advocate for U.S. military assistance to the Allied countries. During his time in Washington, Monnet lived near Rock Creek Park and frequently took long walks in what he referred to as “my park.” Monnet claimed that it was on these walks that he thought out and developed plans to achieve lasting peace through a unified Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization Statute:</th>
<th>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §705 (2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization:</td>
<td>The Embassy of France in Washington (<a href="https://franceintheus.org">https://franceintheus.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enslaved Individuals Who Endured the Middle Passage

In December 2022, Congress authorized the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “commemorate the enslaved individuals, the identities of whom may be known or unknown, who endured the Middle Passage.” During House consideration of a standalone bill to authorize the memorial (H.R. 4009), Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, stated why she considered a memorial to enslaved individuals who endured the Middle Passage important:

This bill would authorize the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia commemorating the enslaved individuals who endured forced migration to the United States by way of the transatlantic slave trade. The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission unanimously supported this bill, and it passed out of committee by unanimous consent.

We must not hide this history. Enslaved individuals, known and unknown, rest at the core of our Nation’s history. The atrocities of the system of chattel slavery shed light on our

---

90 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §705(a) (2022).
92 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §707(a) (2022).
In Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

Nation’s central struggle between slavery and freedom—a freedom under which some could be owned, beaten, separated from their families, and denied any rights.

This bill provides for the creation of a powerful marker of truth-telling and remembrance. Let us honor the personhood of these individuals who were repeatedly assumed to have none so that they will never be forgotten.\(^93\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization Statute</th>
<th>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §707 (2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization</td>
<td>Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour (<a href="http://www.gaahlp.org">http://www.gaahlp.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thomas Paine**

In December 2022, Congress authorized the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to “honor the United States patriot, Thomas Paine.”\(^94\) Previously, in October 1992, Congress had authorized the Thomas Paine National Historical Association to establish a memorial to honor Revolutionary War patriot Thomas Paine.\(^95\) The authorization for that memorial expired on December 31, 2003.\(^96\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization Statute</th>
<th>P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §709 (2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Organization</td>
<td>Thomas Paine Memorial Association (<a href="https://thomaspainememorial.org">https://thomaspainememorial.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Extension</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commemorative Works with Lapsed, Replaced, or Repealed Authorizations**

Since 1986, at least eight commemorative works authorized by Congress were not completed in the time allowed by the CWA. One of these memorials (the Gold Star Mothers) had a lapsed authorization and had reauthorization legislation introduced in the 117\(^{th}\) Congress, but its authorization has not been extended. Five commemorative works have lapsed authorizations, but did not have reauthorization legislation introduced in the 117\(^{th}\) Congress. These memorials were to be constructed to honor Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, and Brigadier General Francis Marion; to create a National Peace Garden; and to build a Vietnam Veterans Visitor Center. An additional memorial, to Thomas Paine, had a lapsed authorization that was not


\(^94\) P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §709(a) (2022).


extended, but an authorization for a different group to construct a memorial honoring the same subject became law in 2022 (as discussed elsewhere in this report). Additionally, one memorial (the Slaves and Free Black Persons who served in the Revolutionary War memorial) had its authorization lapse, and then subsequently repealed in legislation creating a new memorial authorization (The National Liberty Memorial). The following section describes the initial authorization for each of these memorials and congressional extensions of memorial authorization, if appropriate.

Lapsed Authorization With Reauthorizing Legislation Introduced in the 117th Congress

Gold Star Mothers

In December 2012, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Congress authorized the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work to “commemorate the sacrifices made by mothers, and made by their sons and daughters who as members of the Armed Forces make the ultimate sacrifice, in defense of the United States.” In testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, the legislation’s (H.R. 1980’s) sponsor, Representative Jon Runyan, explained why he thought a memorial to Gold Star Mothers was needed:

During World War I, mothers of sons and daughters who served in the Armed Forces displayed flags bearing a blue star to represent pride in their sons or daughters and their hope that they would return home safely.

For more than 650,000 of these brave mothers, that hope was shattered, and their children never returned home. Afterwards many of them began displaying flags bearing gold stars to represent the sacrifice that their sons and daughters made in heroic service to our country. Over the years the gold star has come to represent a child who was killed while serving in the Armed Forces, during either war or peacetime.

In December 2013, the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation presented its site analysis to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. In that informational presentation, they expressed a preference for a site location adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. In January 2015, the NCPC expressed support for a site next to the Arlington National Cemetery Visitor’s Center on Memorial Drive, and the CFA approved that site location.

The Gold Star Mothers National Memorial Foundation’s authority to construct a memorial expired in January 2020.\textsuperscript{102} In the 117\textsuperscript{th} Congress (2021-2022), legislation was introduced to reauthorize the memorial until January 2, 2027, but was not enacted.\textsuperscript{103}

|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Sponsor Organization: | Gold Star Mothers National Memorial Foundation  
(http://www.gsmmonument.org) |
| Statutory Extension:  | N/A |
| Location:             | TBD |
| Dedication:           | TBD |

Lapsed Authorization Without Reauthorizing Legislation Introduced in the 117\textsuperscript{th} Congress

National Peace Garden

In June 1987, Congress authorized the Director of the National Park Service to enter into an agreement with the Peace Garden Project to “construct a garden to be known as the ‘Peace Garden’ on a site on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the commitment of the people of the United States to world peace.”\textsuperscript{104} In remarks during debate on the bill (H.R. 191, 100\textsuperscript{th} Congress), Representative Steny Hoyer summarized the need for a memorial to peace:

No one or nation can ever doubt the commitment of the American people to protecting our freedoms when threatened by foreign aggressors. Our Nation’s Capital rightfully honors our heroic defenders of freedom—Americans who served their country courageously, gallantly, and at great risk to their lives. Our citizens have also exhibited an equal commitment for world peace and international law and justice. The creation of a Peace Garden is an appropriate symbol of our efforts to continuing to seek peaceful resolution of world conflict and the institution of the rule of law. Certainly, this century has been one of bloodiest and most violent in man’s history. We have seen countless battles, wars, rebellions, massacres, and civil and international strife of all kinds—continuing examples of man’s inhumanity toward his fellow man. At the same time, against this terrible backdrop, there have been encouraging strides toward world peace. As we honor those who have made sacrifices in war, through monuments, so, too, should we honor them by striving to ensure that the world they have left us will be a peaceful one. A garden would be a living monument to our efforts.\textsuperscript{105}

\textsuperscript{102} The Gold Star Mothers National Memorial Foundation’s authority to construct a memorial expired in January 2020.

\textsuperscript{103} H.R. 2365 (117\textsuperscript{th} Congress), passed the House on July 26, 2021; and S. 1938 (117\textsuperscript{th} Congress), introduced May 27, 2021. Similar legislation was introduced in the 116\textsuperscript{th} Congress, but was not enacted (H.R. 2819, passed the House on February 28, 2020; and S. 1673, introduced May 23, 2019). For more information, see U.S. Congress, House Committee on Natural Resources, \textit{Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act}, report to accompany H.R. 2819, 116\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess., October 18, 2019, H.Rept. 116-243, at https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt243/CRPT-116hrpt243.pdf.


In 1988, a site was approved for the Peace Garden at Hains Point in Southwest Washington, DC. The authorization expired on June 30, 2002.

**Benjamin Banneker**

In November 1998, Congress authorized the Washington Interdependence Council of the District of Columbia to establish a memorial to “honor and commemorate the accomplishments of Mr. Benjamin Banneker.” Adopted as part of a larger bill to create a national heritage area in Michigan, the authorization for the Benjamin Banneker Memorial passed the House and Senate without debate and by voice vote in October. In 2001, the National Park Service reported that the memorial was to be sited on the L’Enfant Promenade in Southwest Washington and be under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.

Since its initial authorization, the Washington Interdependence Council has not been granted an extension to its original authorization, which expired in 2005. A bill (S. 3886) was introduced in the 111th Congress (2009-2010) to reauthorize a Benjamin Banneker Memorial. S. 3886 was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, but no further action was taken.

**Frederick Douglass**

In November 2000, Congress authorized the Frederick Douglass Gardens, Inc., “to establish a memorial and gardens on lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the District of Columbia or its environs in honor and commemoration of Frederick Douglass.” During debate, Representative James Hansen provided a summary of why a memorial to Frederick Douglass was important:

> Mr. Speaker, Frederick Douglass was one of the most prominent leaders of the 19th century abolitionist movement. Born into slavery in eastern Maryland in 1818, Douglass escaped to the North as a young man where he became a world-renowned defender of human rights and eloquent orator, and later a Federal ambassador and advisor to several Presidents. Frederick Douglass was a powerful voice for human rights during the important period of American history, and is still revered today for his contributions against racial injustice.

Early in 2001, the Frederick Douglass Memorial Gardens, Inc., expressed its preference for a site location near the Douglass Memorial Bridge in Southeast Washington, but no further action was taken by Congress to approve the site location. The Frederick Douglass Memorial’s

---

112 S. 3886 (111th Congress), introduced September 29, 2010.
authorization expired in 2008. One attempt was made to reauthorize a Frederick Douglass Memorial during the 110th Congress (2007-2008), but the bill was not reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources.116

**Brigadier General Francis Marion**

In May 2008, Congress authorized the Marion Park Project to establish a commemorative work to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion.117 In testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Daniel N. Wenk, deputy director for operations, National Park Service, supported the enactment of legislation authorizing a Brigadier General Francis Marion Memorial and explained why such a memorial meets criteria for commemoration in the District of Columbia.

Brigadier General Francis Marion commanded the Williamsburg Militia Revolutionary force in South Carolina and was instrumental in delaying the advance of British forces by leading his troops in disrupting supply lines. He is credited for inventing and applying innovative battle tactics in this effort, keys to an ultimate victory for the American Colonies in the Revolutionary War. Additionally Brigadier General Marion’s troops are believed to have been the first racially integrated force fighting for the United States.118

The Marion Park Project identified its preferred site location for the memorial at Marion Park in southeast Washington, DC. In December 2014, the National Capital Planning Commission expressed its support for the Marion Park site.119 Since its initial authorization, the Marion Memorial was reauthorized once.120 Authorization for the memorial expired on May 8, 2018.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center**

In November 2003, Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to create a visitor center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to “better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War.”121 In the House report accompanying the legislation (H.R. 1442, 108th Congress), the Committee on Resources summarized the need for a visitor center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

> Since its dedication in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known to many as simply “The Wall,” has done much to heal the nation’s wounds after the bitterly divisive experience of the Vietnam War. For those who served, that year marked a sea change in the country’s view of the Vietnam veteran. Americans began to understand and respect the Vietnam veterans’ service and sacrifice. Today, over 4.4 million people visit The Wall every year—making it the most visited Memorial in the Nation’s Capital. Today, most

---

visitors to The Wall were not alive during the “Vietnam Era.” Many veterans’ organizations and many others believe today’s visitor is shortchanged in his/her experience. Many leave The Wall not fully understanding its message. To that end, a visitor center would provide an educational experience for visitors by facilitating self-guided tours, collecting and displaying remembrances of those whose names are inscribed on the Memorial, and displaying exhibits discussing the history of the Memorial and the Vietnam War. The visitor’s center would eventually replace a 168-foot National Park Service kiosk currently at the site.122

The visitor center was to be constructed underground and located across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial.123 In 2015, the NCPC and CFA approved the visitor center’s design.124 On September 21, 2018, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund announced their intention not to seek an extension to its authorization to build the visitor center, which expired on November 17, 2018.125 At that time, legislation had been introduced, but not considered, to extend the fund’s authorization into 2022.126 Previously, the fund had received two statutory extensions.127

Replaced Authorization

Thomas Paine

In October 1992, Congress authorized the Thomas Paine National Historical Association to establish a memorial to honor Revolutionary War patriot Thomas Paine.128 In remarks summarizing the need for a memorial to Thomas Paine, Representative William Lacy Clay stated:

Thomas Paine’s writings were a catalyst of the American Revolution. His insistence upon the right to resist arbitrary rule has inspired oppressed peoples worldwide, just as it

In-Progress and Lapsed Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act

continues to inspire us. It is time that a grateful nation gives him a permanent place of honor in the capital of the country he helped build.129

Since its initial authorization in 1992, the authorization for the Thomas Paine memorial was extended once. Authorization for the memorial expired on December 31, 2003.130 In the 117th Congress, a new sponsor group, the Thomas Paine Memorial Association, was authorized to establish a Thomas Paine Memorial.131 The new authorization legislation did not repeal the expired 1992 authorization.

Repealed Authorization

Since 1986, one commemorative work’s authorization was repealed by Congress—the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial—as part of legislation creating a new memorial authorization.

Black Revolutionary War Patriots

In October 1986, Congress authorized the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor “the estimated five thousand courageous slaves and free black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution and to honor countless black men, women, and children who ran away from slavery or filed petitions with courts and legislatures seeking their freedom.”132 In remarks introducing the memorial legislation, Representative Mary Rose Oakar summarized the need for a memorial to Black Revolutionary War Veterans:

Mr. Speaker, as early as 1652 blacks were fighting as members of the Militia in Colonial America, thus beginning their history of achievement and heroism for our country. Yet, history books in American schools have for the most part omitted the contributions of black soldiers since the Revolutionary War, to our most recent conflict in Vietnam.

This memorial to these black Americans is a small tribute to their bravery and valor, an important part of the founding of our country.133

Following its initial authorization in 1986, the memorial was reauthorized three times.134 Authorization for the memorial expired in 2005,135 and it was repealed when the National Mall Liberty Fund DC was authorized to build the National Liberty Memorial in 2013 (discussed above in the section “National Liberty Memorial”).136

131 P.L. 117-328, Division DD, Subtitle D, Title VII, §709(a) (2022).
Author Information

Jacob R. Straus
Specialist on the Congress

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS’s institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.