To direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out a project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out a project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “9/11 First Responders History Project Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:
(1) Over 410,000 people were exposed to the site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City, including 50,000 workers from across the Nation who traveled to the site to lend their support.

(2) Of these over 410,000 people, 91,000 were rescue and recovery workers.

(3) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was one of the major health effects for individuals who responded to the WTC attacks.

(4) Nineteen percent of adult enrollees (about 71,000 people) in the WTC Health Registry report new PTSD symptoms, 4 times the rate typically seen in adults in the United States.

(5) Of the more than 10,000 rescue and recovery workers monitored for a study at the Mount Sinai WTC Consortium over a five-year period from 2002 to 2007, 11% met criteria for probable PTSD, 8.8% had probable depression, 5.0% had probable panic disorder, and 62% had substantial stress reaction.

(6) According to the Mount Sinai study, the rate of PTSD among responders to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the WTC is significantly greater than in the general population and is
on par with the rate experienced by veterans of the
war in Afghanistan. For example, 15.5% of fire-
fighters report probable post–9/11 PTSD and fire-
fighters who worked at Ground Zero lost an average
of 12 years of lung function.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to create
a new federally sponsored, authorized, and funded project
that will coordinate at a national level the collection of
video and audio recordings of personal histories and
testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and
cleanup workers who responded to the September 11,
2001, terrorist attacks that will build upon and com-
plement previous and ongoing documentary work on this
subject, and to assist and encourage local efforts to pre-
serve the memories of such individuals so that Americans
of all current and future generations may hear from them
directly and better appreciate the sacrifices they made.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT AT LIBRARY OF CON-
GRESS TO COLLECT VIDEO AND AUDIO RE-
CORDINGS OF HISTORIES OF 9/11 FIRST RE-
SPONDERS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—Within the lim-
its of available funds, the Librarian of Congress (hereafter
referred to as the “Librarian”) shall establish an oral his-
tory project—
(1) to survey, during the initial phase of the project, collections of audio and video recordings of the reminiscences of 9/11 first responders that are housed in archives, libraries, museums, and other educational institutions, as well as ongoing documentary work, in order to augment and complement these endeavors and avoid duplication of effort;

(2) to solicit, reproduce, and collect—

(A) video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of 9/11 first responders; and

(B) visual and written materials (such as letters, diaries, photographs, and ephemera) relevant to the personal histories of individuals;

(3) to create a collection of the recordings and other materials obtained, and to catalog and index the collection in a manner the Librarian considers appropriate; and

(4) to make the collection available for public use through the Library of Congress, as well as through such other methods as the Librarian consider appropriate.

(b) USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—The Librarian may carry out the activities described in subsection (a) through agreements and partner-
ships entered into with other government and private entities, and may otherwise consult with interested persons (within the limits of available resources) and develop appropriate guidelines and arrangements for soliciting, acquiring, and making available recordings under the project under this Act.

(c) Services of Experts and Consultants; Acceptance of Volunteer Services; Advance Payments.—In carrying out activities described in subsection (a)(1), the Librarian may—

(1) procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) accept and utilize the services of volunteers and other uncompensated personnel and reimburse them for travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) make advances of money and payments in advance in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) Timing.—As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the Librarian shall begin collecting video and audio recordings and other materials under subsection (a), and shall attempt to collect the first such recordings from the oldest individuals involved.
(e) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “9/11 first responders” means emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, in New York City, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon (including the aftermath of such attacks).

SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR PROJECT.

(a) ENCOURAGING SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—The Librarian of Congress is encouraged to solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind contributions to support activities under section 3.

(b) DEDICATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Congress to support the activities of the Librarian under section 3 shall be deposited entirely into an account established for such purpose;

(2) the funds contained in such account shall be used solely to support such activities; and

(3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit into such account any funds donated to the Librarian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose of supporting such activities.
SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) $250,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

(2) $150,000 for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.