

Union Calendar No. 364

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6353

[Report No. 117-468]

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2022

Ms. WILD (for herself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Ms. STANSBURY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Service Ani-
5 mals Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the National Service Animals Monument
9 Corporation’s mission is to honor and recognize the
10 broad scope of service animals, including working
11 animals, through the creation of a memorial to edu-
12 cate the public of the contributions by service ani-
13 mals and the human-animal bond between service
14 animals and their handlers, whether a person with
15 a disability, a law enforcement officer, military per-
16 sonnel, or other handler;

17 (2) formalized service animal work began in
18 1929 when the Eustice School in New Jersey estab-
19 lished the first guide-dog school;

20 (3) the purple poppy is the international symbol
21 for the service and sacrifice of service animals;

22 (4) on February 24 of each year, National
23 Service Animals Day is celebrated in the United
24 States and throughout the world;

1 (5) service and working animals, such as dogs,
2 horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins,
3 sea lions, and other animals, have worked alongside
4 and supported humans throughout history and have
5 created strong human-animal bonds, including—

6 (A) during the Revolutionary War, horses
7 served in combat carrying soldiers, as well as
8 transporting the wounded and critical supplies;

9 (B) during World War I and World War
10 II—

11 (i) homing pigeons served as critical
12 messengers with tiny message capsules at-
13 tached to their legs that were used to send
14 communications that saved the lives of
15 countless soldiers, resulting in many pi-
16 geons becoming the target of enemy fire;
17 and

18 (ii) donkeys and mules transported
19 food, supplies, and wounded
20 servicemembers; and

21 (C) during the war in Afghanistan—

22 (i) military working dogs safeguarded
23 the lives of thousands of servicemen by
24 clearing areas of improvised explosion de-
25 vices; and

1 (ii) in one example, Lucca, a German
2 Shepherd-Belgian Malinois service dog,
3 was employed by the United States Marine
4 Corps for 6 years and trained to detect ex-
5 plosives, deploying twice to Iraq and once
6 to Afghanistan, supporting over 400 mis-
7 sions without a single human fatality, and
8 ultimately sustaining an injury and ampu-
9 tation in 2012 due to an improvised explo-
10 sive device while on patrol in Afghanistan;

11 (6) the bonds formed between military per-
12 sonnel and law enforcement and their working dogs
13 are so strong that they have risked their lives will-
14 ingly to save the other;

15 (7) the tasks that service dogs perform for per-
16 sons with disabilities are essential activities of daily
17 living, such as guiding people with visual impair-
18 ments, signaling sounds for those who are deaf, re-
19 trieving items for people with mobility issues, alert-
20 ing about impending cardiac episodes or seizures,
21 turning on lights, providing stability for their owner
22 while standing, and pressing elevator and accessi-
23 bility buttons;

24 (8) in addition to service animals' help with
25 functional tasks and missions, the human-animal

1 bond provides handlers the ability to live independ-
2 ently, work confidently, and socialize freely;

3 (9) shelter dogs can be trained as service ani-
4 mals;

5 (10) service animals, such as horses and dogs—

6 (A) support a variety of health and ther-
7 apy services, including for people with autism,
8 schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and bipolar
9 disorder; and

10 (B) specifically, can support
11 servicemembers and veterans who experience
12 traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic
13 stress disorder;

14 (11) search and rescue dogs working with civil-
15 ian or law enforcement handlers make United States
16 communities and the Nation safer when they assist
17 with the rescue of lost children, seniors, and other
18 at-risk individuals, including in the event of natural
19 or manmade disasters, for example—

20 (A) service animals have supported search
21 and rescue missions after terrorist attacks, in-
22 cluding September 11 and the Oklahoma City
23 bombing; and

1 (B) service animals have supported local
2 search and rescue missions involving lost chil-
3 dren, such as—

4 (i) the service dog Mercy, a blood-
5 hound with the Lee County, Florida, Sher-
6 iff's department, who tracked a 12-year-old
7 girl for more than a half mile through
8 thick woods after she went missing during
9 Tropical Storm Elsa in July 2021; and

10 (ii) the service dog Gandalf, trained
11 by the South Carolina Search and Rescue
12 Dog Association, who found a 12-year-old
13 boy who had vanished from a campsite in
14 the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Caro-
15 lina in March 2019;

16 (12) the extraordinary abilities of service ani-
17 mals, including smell, sensing, hearing, eyesight, and
18 empathy, make them uniquely capable of helping hu-
19 mans, including by assisting with the identification
20 of illegal drugs, detecting an impending seizure,
21 hearing a person buried beneath rubble, or seeing an
22 expensive or vital tool dropped by a naval diver;

23 (13) service animals provide well-documented
24 value to human health, safety, and security; and

1 (2) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL SERV-
2 ICE ANIMALS MONUMENT CORPORATION.—The Cor-
3 poration shall be solely responsible for the accept-
4 ance of contributions for, and the payment of the ex-
5 penses of, the establishment of the commemorative
6 work under this section.

7 (d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, upon payment of all ex-
9 penses for the establishment of the commemorative
10 work under this section (including the maintenance
11 and preservation amount required by section
12 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there
13 remains a balance of funds received for the estab-
14 lishment of the commemorative work, the Corpora-
15 tion shall transmit the amount of the balance to the
16 Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account
17 provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United
18 States Code.

19 (2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If, upon
20 expiration of the authority for the commemorative
21 work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United
22 States Code, there remains a balance of funds re-
23 ceived for the establishment of the commemorative
24 work under this section, the Corporation shall trans-
25 mit the amount of the balance to a separate account

1 with the National Park Foundation for memorials,
2 to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the
3 Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in
4 accordance with the process provided in section
5 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for ac-
6 counts established under paragraph (2) or (3) of
7 section 8906(b) of such title.

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