

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10340

To establish a program in the Library of Congress for the collection of oral histories related to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Mr. KEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish a program in the Library of Congress for the collection of oral histories related to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, 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 “9/11 Legacy Preserva-
5 tion Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks
9 in New York City, New York, Arlington, Virginia,

1 and Shanksville, Pennsylvania remain the deadliest
2 terrorist attacks in history.

3 (2) Targeting the World Trade Center in New
4 York, hijacked Flight 11 struck the North Tower
5 and hijacked Flight 175 struck the South Tower, ul-
6 timately causing the collapse of both towers.

7 (3) Targeting the Pentagon in Arlington, hi-
8 jacked Flight 77 struck the western facade of the
9 Pentagon, decimating that portion of the building.

10 (4) After passengers and crew aboard hijacked
11 Flight 93 learned of the other two attacks, they
12 fought to regain control of the cockpit, crash-landing
13 in a grassy field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. It is
14 widely believed the final target of Flight 93 was the
15 United States Capitol or the White House in Wash-
16 ington, DC.

17 (5) The 9/11 attacks killed 2,753 people in New
18 York, 184 people in Virginia, and 40 people in
19 Pennsylvania.

20 (6) Oral histories are of immeasurable value to
21 historians, researchers, authors, journalists,
22 filmmakers, scholars, students, and citizens of all
23 walks of life.

24 (7) Survivors of 9/11 are an invaluable resource
25 in their memories of the tragic events of that day,

1 and can provide a rich history of our Nation and its
2 people through the retelling of those memories.

3 (8) It is in the Nation's best interest to collect
4 and catalog oral histories of 9/11 survivors so that
5 future generations will have original sources of infor-
6 mation regarding the lives and times of those who
7 survived this tragic day, and so that Americans will
8 never forget the events of September 11th, 2001.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM AT AMERICAN**
10 **FOLKLIFE CENTER TO COLLECT VIDEO AND**
11 **AUDIO RECORDINGS OF HISTORIES FROM**
12 **SURVIVORS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the American
14 Folklife Center at the Library of Congress shall establish
15 an oral history program—

16 (1) to collect video and audio recordings of per-
17 sonal histories and testimonials from survivors of
18 September 11, 2001;

19 (2) to create a collection of the recordings ob-
20 tained (including a catalog and index) which will be
21 available for public use through the National Digital
22 Library of the Library of Congress and such other
23 methods as the Director considers appropriate to the
24 extent feasible subject to available resources; and

1 (3) to solicit, reproduce, and collect written ma-
2 terials (such as letters and diaries) relevant to the
3 personal histories of survivors of September 11,
4 2001, and to catalog such materials in a manner the
5 Director considers appropriate, consistent with and
6 complimentary to the efforts described in paragraphs
7 (1) and (2).

8 (b) **USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTI-**
9 **TIES.**—The Director may carry out the activities described
10 in paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a) through agree-
11 ments and partnerships entered into with other govern-
12 ment and private entities, and may otherwise consult with
13 interested persons (within the limits of available re-
14 sources) and develop appropriate guidelines and arrange-
15 ments for soliciting, acquiring, and making available re-
16 cordings under the program under this Act.

17 (c) **TIMING.**—As soon as practicable after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall begin col-
19 lecting video and audio recordings under subsection (a)(1),
20 and shall attempt to collect the first such recordings from
21 the oldest survivors.

22 **SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT.**

23 (a) **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.**—The Librarian of
24 Congress may solicit and accept donations of funds and

1 in-kind contributions to carry out the oral history program
2 under section 3.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE GIFT AC-
4 COUNT.—There is established in the Treasury (among the
5 accounts of the Library of Congress) a gift account for
6 the oral history program under section 3.

7 (c) DEDICATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any
8 other provision of law—

9 (1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Con-
10 gress to carry out the oral history program under
11 section 3 shall be deposited entirely into the gift ac-
12 count established under subsection (b);

13 (2) the funds contained in such account shall be
14 used solely to carry out the oral history program
15 under section 3; and

16 (3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit
17 into such account any funds donated to the Librar-
18 ian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose
19 of carrying out the oral history program under sec-
20 tion 3.

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this Act—

24 (1) \$250,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

- 1 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each
- 2 succeeding fiscal year.

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