

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PRAYER ACT OF 2014

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JUNE 30, 2014.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed
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Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2175]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2175) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE OR INSCRIPTION AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

The Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day;

(2) shall design, procure, prepare, and install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) may not use Federal funds to prepare or install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1), but may accept and expend private contributions for this purpose.

SEC. 3. COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.

Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”), shall apply to the design and placement of the plaque within the area of the World War II Memorial.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2175 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. honors the service of 16 million members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the support of countless millions on the home front, and the ultimate sacrifice of 405,399 Americans. On May 29, 2004, a four-day reunion of veterans on the National Mall culminated in the dedication of the memorial.

In recent years there has been some controversy regarding the omission of the phrase “so help us God” in an inscription of President Roosevelt’s address to Congress following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The National Park Service responded with the explanation that the phrase was excluded because it was not spoken at the point in the address from which the excerpt was derived.

H.R. 2175 directs the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the Nation on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day. The prayer included the paragraph:

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

H.R. 2175 prohibits the use of federal funds in preparation or installation of the plaque and requires it adhere to the Commemorative Works Act, which mandates a process for placement and approval for memorials and monuments on federal land in Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2175 was introduced on May 23, 2013, by Congressman Bill Johnson (R-OH). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. On May 20, 2014, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On May 29, 2014, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation was discharged by unanimous consent. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) offered an amendment designated #1 to the bill; the amendment was adopted by unanimous consent. No further amendments were offered and the bill, as amended, was then adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 2175—World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013

H.R. 2175 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to install within the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., an inscription of the words President Roosevelt prayed with the nation on June 6, 1944. The legislation would direct the Secretary to design, procure, and install the inscription; however, federal funds could not be used to prepare or install the inscription. The Secretary would be authorized to accept and spend private donations for the inscription. Under the bill, the proposed addition to the memorial would be subject to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act.

CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Based on information from the National Park Service, CBO estimates that the cost to maintain the inscription would be insignificant. Enacting H.R. 2175 would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effects of receiving and spending donated funds would be insignificant. Enacting H.R. 2175 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 2175 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On January 7, 2014, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1044, the World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on November 21, 2013. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. Section 308(a) of Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending au-

thority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

Directed Rule Making. The Chairman does not believe that this bill directs any executive branch official to conduct any specific rule-making proceedings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.