

Public Law 107-62
107th Congress

An Act

To authorize 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 and his legacy.

Nov. 5, 2001
[H.R. 1668]

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

40 USC 1003
note.

SECTION 1. COMMEMORATIVE WORK TO HONOR JOHN ADAMS AND HIS LEGACY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Few families have contributed as profoundly to the United States as the family that gave the Nation its second president, John Adams; its sixth president, John Quincy Adams; first ladies Abigail Smith Adams and Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams; and succeeding generations of statesmen, diplomats, advocates, and authors.

(2) John Adams (1735–1826), a lawyer, a statesman, and a patriot, was the author of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the oldest written constitution still in force), the leader of the Second Continental Congress, a driving force for independence, a negotiator of the Treaty of Paris (which brought the Revolutionary War to an end), the first Vice President, the second President, and an unwavering exponent of freedom of conscience and the rule of law.

(3) Abigail Smith Adams (1744–1818) was one of the most remarkable women of her time. Wife of former President John Adams and mother of former President John Quincy Adams, she was an early advocate for the rights of women and served the cause of liberty as a prolific writer, fierce patriot, and staunch abolitionist.

(4) John Quincy Adams (1767–1848), the son of John and Abigail Adams, was a distinguished lawyer, legislator, and diplomat and a master of 7 languages, who served as Senator, Minister to the Netherlands under President George Washington, Minister to Prussia under the first President Adams, Minister to Great Britain under President James Madison, chief negotiator of the Treaty of Ghent (which ended the War of 1812), Secretary of State under President James Monroe, author of the Monroe Doctrine (which declared the Western Hemisphere off limits to European imperial expansion), sixth President, and the only former President to be elected to the House of Representatives, where he was known as “Old Man Eloquent” and served with great distinction as a leader in the fight against slavery and a champion of unpopular causes.

(5) Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams (1775–1852), the wife of former President John Quincy Adams, was an educated, accomplished woman and the only first lady born outside the United States. Like Abigail Adams, she wrote eloquently on behalf of the rights of women and in opposition to slavery.

(6) Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886), the son of John Quincy and Louisa Adams, served 6 years in the Massachusetts legislature, was a steadfast abolitionist who received the Free Soil Party's vice-presidential nomination in 1848, was elected to his father's seat in the House of Representatives in 1856, and served as ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War, where his efforts were decisive in preventing the British Government from recognizing the independence of the Confederacy.

(7) Henry Adams (1838–1918), the son of Charles Francis Adams, was an eminent writer, scholar, historian, and public intellectual, and was the author of many celebrated works, including "Democracy", "The Education of Henry Adams", and his 9-volume "History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison".

(8) Both individually and collectively, the members of this illustrious family have enriched the Nation through their profound civic consciousness, abiding belief in the perfectibility of the Nation's democracy, and commitment to service and sacrifice for the common good.

(9) Although the Congress has authorized the establishment of commemorative works on Federal lands in the District of Columbia honoring such celebrated former Presidents as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, the National Capital has no comparable memorial to former President John Adams.

(10) In recognition of the 200th anniversary of the end of the presidency of John Adams, the time has come to correct this oversight so that future generations of Americans will know and understand the preeminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation of his contributions and those of his family.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Adams Memorial Foundation may 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.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.).

(d) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work. The Adams Memorial Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.

(e) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the commemorative work (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.)), or upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative

work under section 10(b) of such Act, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of such Act.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the terms “commemorative work” and “the District of Columbia and its environs” have the meanings given to such terms in section 2 of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1002).

Approved November 5, 2001.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1668:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 107-77 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 147 (2001):
June 25, considered and passed House.
Oct. 17, considered and passed Senate.

