

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3941

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to include the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to include the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System.

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 “Port Chicago Naval  
5       Magazine National Memorial Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

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

1           (1) The Port Chicago Naval Magazine, located  
2           in Contra Costa County, California, served as the  
3           major West Coast munitions supply facility during  
4           World War II, during which time the facility played  
5           a critical role in the success of the war effort.

6           (2) On July 17, 1944, an explosion at Port Chi-  
7           cago, the origin of which has never been determined,  
8           resulted in the deaths of 320 officers and sailors, the  
9           largest domestic loss of life during World War II,  
10          and the injury of many others.

11          (3) On October 28, 1992, Port Chicago Naval  
12          Magazine was designated as a National Memorial by  
13          Public Law 102–562; 106 Stat. 4235 to commemo-  
14          rate the role of the facility during World War II, to  
15          recognize those who served at the facility, and to  
16          honor the memory of those who gave their lives and  
17          those who were injured in the explosion on July 17,  
18          1944.

19          (4) The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in  
20          this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) does not  
21          have the authority to administer the Port Chicago  
22          Naval Magazine National Memorial (hereafter in  
23          this Act referred to as the “National Memorial”) as  
24          a unit of the National Park System, nor to ade-  
25          quately research (including the collection of oral his-

1       tories), interpret, and preserve the resources associ-  
2       ated with the National Memorial.

3   **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
5       with the Secretary of the Navy, shall conduct a special  
6       resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility  
7       of including the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National  
8       Memorial as a unit of the National Park System.

9       (b) STUDY GUIDELINES.—Section 8(c) of Public Law  
10      91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall apply to the study re-  
11      quired by subsection (a).

12      (c) SCOPE.—In conducting the study required by sub-  
13      section (a), the Secretary shall examine potential links be-  
14      tween the National Memorial and other World War II  
15      home front sites in the San Francisco Bay area.

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