

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3471

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the area at or near the footprints of the former World Trade Center towers for possible inclusion in the National Park System to commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Mr. SHAYS (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the area at or near the footprints of the former World Trade Center towers for possible inclusion in the National Park System to commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

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 “World Trade Center  
5 Site Historic Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked  
2           four civilian aircraft, causing 2 of them to crash into  
3           the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New  
4           York City, a third into the Pentagon, and a fourth  
5           in rural southwest Pennsylvania.

6           (2) On September 11, 2001, more than 3,000  
7           Americans and citizens of the world were massacred  
8           in the worst attack against civilians in the United  
9           States in our Nation's history. This battle raged in  
10          the air and on American soil at the World Trade  
11          Center site, at the Pentagon, and at a field in  
12          Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, Pennsyl-  
13          vania.

14          (3) These attacks destroyed both towers of the  
15          World Trade Center, as well as adjacent buildings,  
16          and seriously damaged the Pentagon; and left a cra-  
17          ter in the ground on a field in Stonycreek Township,  
18          Somerset County Pennsylvania.

19          (4) The impact of this human tragedy has and  
20          continues to be felt by the families of those killed  
21          and wounded, those who survived, the rescue work-  
22          ers, the Nation and the civilized world.

23          (5) In the months since the historic attacks of  
24          September 11, 2001, millions of people have visited  
25          the World Trade Center site to honor the dead, to

1 pay tribute to the heroic actions of those who risked/  
2 and or gave their lives for their fellow Americans  
3 and to bear witness to the historic World Trade  
4 Center site.

5 (6) The attack on the World Trade Center re-  
6 sulted in great destruction and damage to homes,  
7 churches, schools, and commercial and retail build-  
8 ings, causing the loss of thousands of jobs and busi-  
9 nesses in Lower Manhattan.

10 (7) The World Trade Center site is a symbol of  
11 our freedom, patriotism, sacrifice, and the American  
12 spirit. It has an indelible and justified place in  
13 American history.

14 (8) Many are profoundly concerned about the  
15 future disposition of the World Trade Center site,  
16 and many citizens, family members, professional or-  
17 ganizations, local businesses and residents, and  
18 State and local officials have formed coalitions and  
19 held forums to provide a voice for all interested and  
20 concerned parties.

21 (9) A broad and deep consensus has emerged in  
22 the United States that the former World Trade Cen-  
23 ter site, and particularly the tower footprints, bear  
24 a uniquely tragic and transcendent significance in  
25 our Nation's history due to the unparalleled events

1 that took place there; the almost unfathomable num-  
2 ber of innocent lives lost; the extraordinary courage  
3 and honor shown by so many on that day and in the  
4 many months following; and the fact that the cir-  
5 cumstances of their death has meant there is almost  
6 no physical trace of most of the victims.

7 (10) The bedrock footprints of the former  
8 World Trade Center towers are in the area of the  
9 site where the greatest number of victims lost their  
10 lives and where the majority of human remains were  
11 found, and therefore represent the final resting place  
12 of a majority of the victims.

13 (11) It is appropriate that a study be under-  
14 taken to determine the feasibility and suitability of  
15 establishing a national memorial on the site of, or  
16 proximate to, the footprints of the former World  
17 Trade Center towers, to commemorate the inter-  
18 nationally significant events of September 11, 2001  
19 and the lives lost, for possible inclusion as a unit of  
20 the National Park System.

21 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND CRITERIA.**

22 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this  
23 Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a study  
24 of the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan, New  
25 York, to evaluate the national significance of the site and

1 the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a  
2 unit of the National Park System.

3 (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study required by  
4 subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the  
5 study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park  
6 System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16  
7 U.S.C. 1a–5; popularly known as the National Park Sys-  
8 tem General Authorities Act).

9 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

10 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
12 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives and  
13 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the  
14 Senate a report on the findings of the study and the con-  
15 clusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

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