

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3619

To permit each State to provide a statue of an individual representing that State to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2005

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To permit each State to provide a statue of an individual representing that State to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center, 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 “American Heroes Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Each State has chosen statues of 2 local he-
8 roes to exhibit in the Capitol.

1 (2) Most of these heroes depict figures who
2 lived during the early years of the Nation's history.

3 (3) The completion of the construction of the
4 Capitol Visitor Center will increase the size of the
5 public space inside the Capitol complex, making
6 more space available in which statues of noteworthy
7 Americans should be displayed.

8 (4) On September 11, 2001, the passengers of
9 United Airlines flight number 93 made a unique
10 contribution which helped to protect the Capitol
11 from attack.

12 **SEC. 3. STATE HERO DESIGNATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State may provide 1 statue
14 of an individual representing that State which shall be dis-
15 played in the Capitol Visitor Center.

16 (b) CRITERIA FOR HEROES.—The statues displayed
17 in the Capitol Visitor Center shall be depictions of individ-
18 uals who participated in the life of the State they rep-
19 resent in ways that will inspire young Americans to em-
20 brace the ideals of the United States as reflected in the
21 Constitution.

22 (c) SELECTION OF HEROES.—No statue shall be dis-
23 played in the Capitol Visitor Center unless the individual
24 depicted in the statue was selected in the manner de-
25 scribed in section 4.

1 (d) AMERICAN HERO ADMINISTRATOR.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Clerk of the House of
3 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate
4 shall jointly assign to 1 of their employees the post
5 of the American Hero Administrator, with such term
6 as agreed upon by the Clerk and the Secretary.

7 (2) STATUE GUIDELINES.—The American Hero
8 Administrator shall prepare guidelines establishing
9 the size, weight, and other necessary restrictions to
10 be placed on the statues to be displayed in the Cap-
11 itol Visitor Center under this Act.

12 **SEC. 4. STATE AMERICAN HERO COMMISSIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order for a statue provided by
14 a State to be placed in the Capitol Visitor Center under
15 this Act, the State shall establish an American Hero Com-
16 mission to select the individual to represent that State.

17 (b) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

18 (1) SELECTION OF HEROES.—Each American
19 Hero Commission shall choose, by a majority vote,
20 after considering any suggestions submitted under
21 subsection (b), the individual whose statue will rep-
22 resent the State of that Commission.

23 (2) COMMISSION AND DELIVERY OF STATUE.—
24 Each American Hero Commission shall commission
25 an artist to design and create the statue and shall

1 arrange for the delivery of the statue to the Capitol
2 Visitor Center.

3 (3) PROCUREMENT OF FUNDS.—Each Amer-
4 ican Hero Commission shall raise private or State
5 funds to pay for the cost of commissioning the stat-
6 ue and delivering it to the Capitol Visitor Center.

7 (c) COMMISSIONERS.—

8 (1) APPOINTMENT.—Each American Hero
9 Commission shall be comprised of commissioners
10 who are appointed by Members of Congress.

11 (2) NUMBER.—Each Member of Congress shall
12 appoint 1 commissioner to the American Hero Com-
13 mission for that Member’s State so that the total
14 number of commissioners shall be equal to the num-
15 ber of Senators plus the number of Members of the
16 House of Representatives for the State.

17 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Commissioners shall be
18 individuals who are respected in their communities
19 and who are residents in good standing of the State
20 represented by the appointing Member.

21 (4) COMPENSATION.—Commissioners shall
22 serve on the American Hero Commission without
23 compensation.

24 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—The commissioners of
25 each American Hero Commission shall establish the

1 rules, meeting schedules, and deadlines that they
2 consider appropriate in carrying out their duties.

3 (d) CONSULTATION OF ESSAYS.—

4 (1) REQUEST FOR ESSAYS.—Each American
5 Hero Commission shall ask that young people who
6 are between the ages of 14 and 18 and who live in
7 the State to write essays suggesting individuals to
8 represent the State in a statue displayed in the Cap-
9 itol Visitor Center under this Act and to submit the
10 essays to the Commission.

11 (2) CONSULTATION.—In determining who will
12 represent their State, the commissioners of each
13 American Hero Commission shall consider any indi-
14 viduals suggested in the essays submitted under
15 paragraph (1).

16 **SEC. 5. STATUE HONORING THE PASSENGERS OF FLIGHT**

17 **93.**

18 (a) PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF STAT-
19 UE.—The Architect of the Capitol shall procure and install
20 a statue honoring the passengers of United Airlines flight
21 number 93 who died on September 11, 2001 for their he-
22 roic role in protecting Washington, DC from attack.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

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