

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3247

To provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park  
in the State of Michigan.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10 (legislative day, JULY 9), 2008

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Nat-  
ural Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for the designation of the River Raisin National  
Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan.

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 “River Raisin National  
5       Battlefield Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

8               (1) the War of 1812, often referred to as  
9       “America’s Second War of Independence”, was sig-

1       nificant in the development of the United States be-  
2       cause the War—

3               (A) helped forge a national identity;

4               (B) retained and solidified the northern  
5       border with Canada; and

6               (C) firmly established the sovereignty of  
7       the United States;

8       (2) in section 603 of division I of the Omnibus  
9       Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996  
10      (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note; Public Law 104–333), Con-  
11      gress found that “the historical integrity of many  
12      Revolutionary War sites and War of 1812 sites is at  
13      risk”;

14      (3) the River Raisin battlefield is the site of a  
15      major engagement of the War of 1812;

16      (4) the battles and subsequent massacre at the  
17      River Raisin were some of the most significant mili-  
18      tary events of the entire War;

19      (5) approximately 65 United States prisoners  
20      were killed or burned alive the day after the second  
21      battle;

22      (6) out of the nearly 1,000 United States sol-  
23      diers and militia members who participated in the  
24      battle, only 33 escaped death or capture;

1           (7) the defeat of the United States forces at  
 2           Frenchtown, now Monroe, Michigan, the subsequent  
 3           massacre, and the burning of the settlement were  
 4           described by General William Henry Harrison as a  
 5           “national calamity”;

6           (8) the outrage stemming from the catastrophe  
 7           aided recruitment efforts for the successful United  
 8           States campaign in the spring of 1813;

9           (9) soldiers marching to Canada the following  
 10          summer passed through the ashes of Frenchtown  
 11          and were so moved by the tragic scene that the sol-  
 12          diers were spurred on to victory at the Battle of the  
 13          Thames, where the soldiers shouted the emotional  
 14          battle cry, “Remember the Raisin!”;

15          (10) the events that occurred on the River Rai-  
 16          sin battlefield remain a significant moment in  
 17          United States history; and

18          (11) the River Raisin battlefield where so many  
 19          citizens died defending the United States deserves  
 20          the highest degree of Federal protection and inter-  
 21          pretation.

22 **SEC. 3. RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—If Monroe County or Wayne  
 24          County, Michigan, or other willing landowners in either  
 25          County offer to donate to the United States land relating

1 to the Battles of the River Raisin on January 18 and 22,  
2 1813, or the aftermath of the battles, the Secretary of the  
3 Interior (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall  
4 accept the donated land.

5 (b) DESIGNATION OF PARK.—On the acquisition of  
6 land under subsection (a) that is of sufficient acreage to  
7 permit efficient administration, the Secretary shall des-  
8 ignate the acquired land as a unit of the National Park  
9 System, to be known as “River Raisin National Battlefield  
10 Park”.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
12 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to  
13 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural  
15 Resources of the Senate a report describing the progress  
16 made with respect to—

17 (1) acquiring real property under subsection  
18 (a); and

19 (2) designating the River Raisin National Bat-  
20 tlefield Park.

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