

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3589

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BOND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial.

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. DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AT**  
4                       **THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN**  
5                       **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS THE NATIONAL**  
6                       **WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8       ings:

1           (1) Although more than 4,000,000 Americans  
2       served in World War I, there is no nationally recog-  
3       nized memorial honoring the service of such Ameri-  
4       cans in that war.

5           (2) In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Mis-  
6       souri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised  
7       more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial  
8       to the service of Americans in World War I. That  
9       fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by  
10      any other city in the United States irrespective of  
11      population and reflected the passion of public opin-  
12      ion about World War I, which had so recently ended.

13          (3) Following the drive, a national architectural  
14      competition was held by the American Institute of  
15      Architects for designs for a memorial to the service  
16      of Americans in World War I, and the competition  
17      yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren  
18      Magonigle.

19          (4) On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000  
20      people witnessed the dedication of the site for the  
21      Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. That  
22      dedication marked the only time in history that the  
23      five allied military leaders present, Lieutenant Gen-  
24      eral Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando  
25      Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France,

1 General John J. Pershing of the United States, and  
2 Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were to-  
3 gether at one place.

4 (5) General Pershing, a native of Missouri and  
5 the commander of the American Expeditionary  
6 Forces in World War I, noted at the November 1,  
7 1921 dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas City,  
8 MO are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial,  
9 erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant  
10 achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons  
11 and daughters who served in our country’s armed  
12 forces during the World War. It symbolized their  
13 grateful appreciation of duty well done, and appre-  
14 ciation which I share, because I know so well how  
15 richly it is merited”.

16 (6) During an Armistice Day ceremony in  
17 1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the begin-  
18 ning of a three-year construction project for the Lib-  
19 erty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone of the  
20 memorial.

21 (7) The 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has  
22 an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who  
23 Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and  
24 Our Country” as well as four stone “Guardian Spir-  
25 its” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and

1 sacrifice, which rise above the observation deck,  
 2 making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all  
 3 who served in World War I.

4 (8) During a rededication for the Liberty Me-  
 5 morial in 1961, World War I veterans and former  
 6 Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-  
 7 hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-  
 8 minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the  
 9 progress that followed.

10 (9) The 106th Congress recognized the Liberty  
 11 Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.

12 (10) The 108th Congress designated the mu-  
 13 seum at the base of the Liberty Memorial as “Amer-  
 14 ica’s National World War I Museum”.

15 (11) The National World War I Museum is the  
 16 only public museum in the United States specifically  
 17 dedicated to the history of World War I.

18 (12) The National World War I Museum is  
 19 known throughout the world as a major center of  
 20 World War I remembrance.

21 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Liberty Memorial at the Na-  
 22 tional World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is  
 23 hereby designated as the “National World War I Memo-  
 24 rial”.

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