

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4915

To designate the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park comprised of certain National Park System lands, and by affiliation and cooperative agreements other historically significant resources, located in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, that were part of the Civil War defenses of Washington and related to the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, to study ways in which the Civil War history of both the North and South can be assembled, arrayed, and conveyed for the benefit of the public, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON (for herself and Ms. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park comprised of certain National Park System lands, and by affiliation and cooperative agreements other historically significant resources, located in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, that were part of the Civil War defenses of Washington and related to the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, to study ways in which the Civil War history of both the North and South can be assembled, arrayed, and conveyed for the benefit of the public, and for other purposes.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
“Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical  
Park Act”.

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Redesignation.
- Sec. 4. Areas included in Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park.
- Sec. 5. Possible inclusion of additional areas.
- Sec. 6. National Civil War History Education Center Report.
- Sec. 7. Administration.
- Sec. 8. Definitions.

10 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares as  
11 follows:

(1) As the United States concludes the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, 1861–1865, it is fitting and helpful for Americans to remember, reflect upon, and learn from the storied history, valor, heartbreak, and suffering of both sides in this tragic war that so divided and scarred the young Nation, but that also served as a crucible for the Nation to secure itself as the United States and preserve the Union, abolish the injustice

1 of slavery, and become the beacon of hope as a de-  
2 mocracy that it has become for the world.

3 (2) The significance of the Civil War to the fu-  
4 ture of the United States is incalculable. The war's  
5 lessons and meaning to the history of the United  
6 States, what it stands for, and its place in the world  
7 today must be remembered and conveyed to future  
8 generations. The war pitted family against family,  
9 brother against brother, friend against friend, Blue  
10 against Gray. Its battlegrounds were consecrated  
11 with blood that was shed by many who gave their  
12 last full measure of devotion. The reunited democ-  
13 racy that emerged, after such a heavy loss of life on  
14 both sides and the difficult decades of healing that  
15 followed, made the United States stronger. It helped  
16 the Nation advance toward achieving the inalienable  
17 rights and noble goals and values its founders  
18 sought, but had not fully achieved, in their lifetimes.

19 (3) The defenses of Washington played a key  
20 role in the outcome of the Civil War. They were con-  
21 structed at the beginning of the war in 1861 as a  
22 ring of fortifications in the District of Columbia,  
23 Maryland, and northern Virginia, to protect the Na-  
24 tion's Capital. By the end of the war, these defenses  
25 included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mount-

1 ed cannon, 13 miles of rifle trenches, and 32 miles  
2 of military roads.

3 (4) The major test of the Civil War defenses of  
4 Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Cam-  
5 paign of 1864 when Confederate Lieutenant General  
6 Jubal Early marched from Richmond to Lynchburg,  
7 Virginia, and through the Shenandoah Valley to  
8 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and Frederick, Mary-  
9 land. His major objective, as directed to him by  
10 General Robert E. Lee, was to attack the Nation's  
11 Capital from the north, causing Union Forces to be  
12 withdrawn from threatening Richmond, the capital  
13 of the Confederacy. He was delayed by Union Major  
14 General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on  
15 July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge  
16 of the District of Columbia at the Battle of Fort  
17 Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Val-  
18 ley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General  
19 Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle  
20 of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19, 1864.

21 (5) The Battle of Fort Stevens was the second  
22 and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack  
23 Washington. The first major effort to surround or  
24 capture the Nation's Capital ended at Gettysburg in  
25 July 1863. After that historic battle, in his address

1 at Gettysburg Cemetery on November 19, 1863,  
2 President Abraham Lincoln redefined what was at  
3 stake: “a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedi-  
4 cated to the proposition that all men are created  
5 equal . . . that this nation, under God, shall have  
6 a new birth of freedom—and that government of the  
7 people, by the people, and for the people shall not  
8 perish from the earth.”.

9 (6) The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only  
10 verifiable time that a sitting United States President  
11 (Abraham Lincoln) came under hostile fire during a  
12 battle while in office. Nearly all the individual forts  
13 in the defenses of Washington (on both sides of the  
14 Potomac and Anacostia Rivers) were involved in  
15 stopping General Early’s attack. Had that one battle  
16 at the very edge of Washington been lost, the Na-  
17 tion’s Capital, the Presidency, the Union Govern-  
18 ment, and emancipation all would have been poten-  
19 tially lost and the history of the United States dra-  
20 matically changed. The victory at Fort Stevens not  
21 only saved the city and the national government, but  
22 also led to the October 1864 victories for the Union  
23 in the Shenandoah Valley, which ensured Lincoln’s  
24 re-election and preservation of the Union at that  
25 critical moment.

1           (7) After the end of the war, most of the Civil  
2       War defenses of Washington were returned to pri-  
3       vate land owners, but many were retained by the  
4       military or the lands were repurchased later by the  
5       United States. Of the remaining fortifications in  
6       public ownership, 19 sites (including Battleground  
7       Cemetery) are owned by the Federal Government  
8       and managed by the National Park Service, four are  
9       owned by local units of government in northern Vir-  
10      ginia, and one is owned by Montgomery County,  
11      Maryland.

12          (8) In 1902, the Senate McMillan Commission  
13      issued a Report on the Improvement of the Park  
14      System of Washington (U.S. Senate Committee on  
15      the District of Columbia, Senate Report No. 166,  
16      57th Congress, 1st Session). The Report called for  
17      development of a “Fort Drive” to connect the Civil  
18      War defenses of Washington in the Nation’s Capital.  
19      Congress appropriated funds to purchase lands for  
20      the Fort Drive during the 1930s, but it was never  
21      fully completed.

22          (9) Most of the remaining Civil War defenses of  
23      Washington contain significant natural and rec-  
24      reational resources, and some offer sweeping vistas  
25      overlooking the Nation’s Capital. With the lands ac-

1       quired for the Fort Drive, they provide a linkage of  
2       urban green spaces that contribute to the history,  
3       character, and scenic values of the Nation's Capital  
4       and offer educational and recreational opportunities  
5       along with their natural and important historical  
6       values.

7               (10) Sites associated with the Civil War de-  
8       fenses of Washington that are in Federal ownership  
9       within the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
10      of Virginia, and the State of Maryland are managed  
11      under three separate units of the National Park  
12      Service (Rock Creek Park, National Capital Parks-  
13      East, and the George Washington Memorial Park-  
14      way). Action by Congress is needed to protect and  
15      aid the educational benefits of the unique place in  
16      history of these sites through proper management,  
17      stabilization, maintenance, development, use, and,  
18      importantly, interpretation.

19              (11) It is fitting and proper that, as Americans  
20      reflect upon the legacy of the Civil War, we more  
21      fully understand and appreciate the roles of the bat-  
22      tles in the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Vir-  
23      ginia, and Maryland related to the defenses of  
24      Washington. Taken together, these battles were piv-  
25      otal to the outcome of the war and therefore to its

1 impact on the promise of the United States. It is  
2 therefore in the national interest that these histori-  
3 cally important sites and resources be protected  
4 from further damage or loss and that they be pre-  
5 served, enhanced, and interpreted for the use, enjoy-  
6 ment, and education of present and future genera-  
7 tions.

8 (12) There is a genuine need and compelling  
9 reason for the United States to rededicate itself to  
10 and honor the vision and ideals of democracy as re-  
11 flected in the Constitution by commemorating and  
12 interpreting through this National Historical Park  
13 the epic story of the American Civil War and the  
14 profound and lasting impact of the war on the val-  
15 ues, capabilities, and strengths that the United  
16 States reflects through the ideals that it stands for  
17 in the world today.

18 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

19 (1) to protect, preserve, enhance, and interpret  
20 for the benefit and use of present and future genera-  
21 tions the cultural, historical, natural, and rec-  
22 reational resources of the Civil War defenses of  
23 Washington located in the District of Columbia, Vir-  
24 ginia, and Maryland; and



1           (2) to study and consider creative and cost-ef-  
2       fective ways that the storied history of the Civil  
3       War, including the defenses of Washington and the  
4       Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, can be as-  
5       sembled, arrayed, and effectively conveyed to and for  
6       the benefit of the public.

7   **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION.**

8       The Civil War defenses of Washington are hereby re-  
9       designated as the Civil War Defenses of Washington Na-  
10      tional Historical Park.

11   **SEC. 4. AREAS INCLUDED IN CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF**  
12                   **WASHINGTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

13       (a) AREAS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
14      NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—The National Historical  
15      Park shall include all areas associated with the Civil War  
16      defenses of Washington that are currently owned by the  
17      Federal Government and under the administration of the  
18      National Park Service, each as depicted on appropriate  
19      maps maintained by the Secretary of the Interior, includ-  
20      ing the following:

21           (1) The following fortifications and associated  
22      lands:

23                   (A) Battery Kemble.

24                   (B) Fort Bayard.

25                   (C) Fort Bunker Hill.

1 (D) Fort Carroll.

2 (E) Fort Chaplin.

3 (F) Fort Davis.

4 (G) Fort DeRussy.

5 (H) Fort Dupont.

6 (I) Fort Foote.

7 (J) Fort Greble.

8 (K) Fort Mahan.

9 (L) Fort Marcy.

10 (M) Fort Reno.

11 (N) Fort Ricketts.

12 (O) Fort Slocum.

13 (P) Fort Stanton.

14 (Q) Fort Stevens.

15 (R) Fort Totten.

16 (2) The following affiliated National Park  
17 Areas:

18 (A) Fort Circle Drive.

19 (B) Battleground National Cemetery.

20 (C) Fort Washington.

21 (D) Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm.

22 (b) POTENTIAL AFFILIATION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS  
23 OWNED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Any site associated  
24 with the Civil War defenses of Washington that is owned  
25 by a unit of local government in Virginia, Maryland, or

1 the District of Columbia, may become affiliated with the  
2 National Historical Park pursuant to a cooperative agree-  
3 ment entered into between the unit of local government  
4 concerned and the Secretary, including the following:

5 (1) In Virginia:

6 (A) Fort Ward, City of Alexandria.

7 (B) Fort C.F. Smith, Arlington County.

8 (C) Fort Ethan Allen, Arlington County.

9 (D) Fort Willard, Fairfax County.

10 (2) In Maryland: Battery Bailey, Montgomery  
11 County.

12 **SEC. 5. POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL AREAS.**

13 (a) AFFILIATION AUTHORITY.—Any site associated  
14 with the Civil War defenses of Washington that is owned  
15 by a private individual or organization or a unit of local  
16 government in the District of Columbia, Virginia, or  
17 Maryland, other than those listed in section 4, that the  
18 Secretary determines is eligible for affiliation with the Na-  
19 tional Historical Park, may be affiliated with the National  
20 Historical Park pursuant to a cooperative agreement en-  
21 tered into between the site owner and the Secretary. The  
22 Secretary may purchase such properties from willing sell-  
23 ers, subject to the availability of private sector donated  
24 funding or appropriations.

1 (b) CONSENT REQUIRED.—No non-Federal property  
 2 may be included in the National Historical Park without  
 3 the written consent of the owner of the property.

4 (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CONDEMNATION.—The  
 5 Secretary may not acquire by condemnation any land or  
 6 interest in land under this Act or for the purposes of this  
 7 Act.

8 (d) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—  
 9 The Secretary shall consult with interested officials of  
 10 State governments and units of local government, rep-  
 11 resentatives of interested organizations, and interested  
 12 members of the public before executing a cooperative  
 13 agreement under this section or section 7(d).

14 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL CIVIL WAR HISTORY EDUCATION CEN-**  
 15 **TER REPORT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of and consistent  
 17 with section 2, the Secretary shall study and consider cre-  
 18 ative and cost-effective ways to facilitate the storied his-  
 19 tory of the Civil War for both the North and the South,  
 20 including the history of the defenses of Washington and  
 21 the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assem-  
 22 bled, arrayed, and conveyed for the benefit of the public  
 23 for the knowledge, education, and inspiration of this and  
 24 future generations about the impact of that war on the  
 25 United States and its fledgling democracy, abolition of

1 slavery, free enterprise economic system, culture, art,  
2 music, and national security capabilities.

3 (b) ASSISTANCE.—In conducting the study, the Sec-  
4 retary shall seek and coordinate the assistance of a wide  
5 array of expertise of individuals and organizations regard-  
6 ing Civil War history, potential locations where this sto-  
7 ried history may be shared, including adaptive reuse of  
8 existing structures, and donated funding resources to help  
9 facilitate carrying out this section.

10 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
12 a report with recommendations regarding the study re-  
13 quired by subsection (a) to the Committee on Natural Re-  
14 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

16 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer  
18 the National Historical Park in accordance with this Act  
19 and the laws generally applicable to units of the National  
20 Park System.

21 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
22 provide technical assistance to local governments and pri-  
23 vate individuals and organizations for the management,  
24 interpretation, and preservation of historically significant

1 resources associated with the Civil War defenses of Wash-  
2 ington.

3 (c) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept, hold,  
4 administer, and use gifts, bequests, devises, and other do-  
5 nations, including labor and services, for purposes of this  
6 Act, including preserving or providing access to sites and  
7 other resources relating to the Civil War defenses of  
8 Washington.

9 (d) OTHER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In addi-  
10 tion to the authority provided by section 5(a), the Sec-  
11 retary may enter into cooperative agreements with State  
12 governments, units of local government, organizations, or  
13 individuals to further the purposes of the Act, including  
14 to provide visitor services and administrative facilities  
15 within reasonable proximity to the National Historical  
16 Park.

17 (e) MARKING OF HISTORICAL SITES.—The Secretary  
18 may identify significant federally or nonfederally owned  
19 sites relating to the Civil War history in Washington and  
20 adjacent environs in northern Virginia and Montgomery  
21 County, Maryland, and, with the consent of the owner or  
22 owners thereof, mark them appropriately and make ref-  
23 erence to them in any interpretive literature.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions  
3 apply:

4 (1) NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—The term  
5 “National Historical Park” means the Civil War De-  
6 fenses of Washington National Historical Park des-  
7 ignated by section 3.

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

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