

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6123

To congressionally designate the museum to preserve the stories, knowledge, and history of the Medal of Honor to be constructed in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, as the National Medal of Honor Museum.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. COOK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To congressionally designate the museum to preserve the stories, knowledge, and history of the Medal of Honor to be constructed in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, as the National Medal of Honor Museum.

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. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress make the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) The Medal of Honor Museum to be located
7 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, will be the only

1 museum in the United States that exists for the ex-
2 clusive purpose of interpreting the story of the
3 Medal of Honor and all of the recipients of the
4 Medal of Honor.

5 (2) The Medal of Honor Museum will be the
6 only museum dedicated for the purpose of educating
7 a diverse audience about the Medal of Honor
8 through its collection of artifacts, photographs, let-
9 ters, documents, and first-hand personal accounts of
10 Medal of Honor recipients and the wars in which
11 they have served.

12 (3) The mission of the Medal of Honor Museum
13 is to preserve and present the extraordinary stories
14 of individuals who reached the highest levels of rec-
15 ognition, “above and beyond the call of duty”, in
16 service to the United States, to inspire current and
17 future generations about the six ideals of the Medal
18 of Honor, namely courage, commitment, integrity,
19 citizenship, sacrifice, and patriotism, to help visitors
20 understand the meaning and price of freedom and
21 what it means to put service above self, and to serve
22 as an education center that, through various pro-
23 grams, reaches out across the country to further the
24 Medal of Honor’s ideals among all Americans, espe-
25 cially young people.

1 (4) The Medal of Honor was established by an
2 Act of Congress in 1861 and is presented by the
3 President “in the name of Congress”.

4 (5) The Medal of Honor is the highest award
5 for valor in action against an enemy force which can
6 be bestowed upon an individual serving in the
7 United States Armed Forces.

8 (6) The Medal of Honor has been awarded to
9 heroes of all races and social classes, and recipients
10 represent all 50 States, the District of Columbia,
11 Puerto Rico, and Guam.

12 (7) As of September 7, 2016, there have been
13 3,496 recipients of the Medal of Honor, of which 19
14 individuals were double recipients.

15 (8) Since World War II, the vast majority of
16 the 874 Medals of Honor awarded for service in
17 World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam were
18 awarded posthumously.

19 (9) As of September 7, 2016, there are only 77
20 living Medal of Honor recipients, and they have an
21 average age of 71 years old, which creates an urgent
22 need to preserve the stories, artifacts, and achieve-
23 ments of these heros.

24 (10) The United States has an urgent need to
25 preserve the stories, knowledge, and history of the

1 recipients of the Medal of Honor and to portray that
2 history, and the courage, commitment, integrity, citi-
3 zenship, sacrifice, and patriotism of the recipients of
4 the Medal of Honor, for future generations.

5 (11) The State of South Carolina has provided
6 a site for the Medal of Honor Museum in Mount
7 Pleasant, South Carolina, at Patriot's Point on the
8 eastern shore of Charleston harbor, not far from the
9 site at which Sergeant William H. Carney of the
10 Union Army's 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regi-
11 ment became the first African-American recipient of
12 the Medal of Honor as a result of his heroic actions
13 on July 18, 1863, during the Battle of Fort Wagner.

14 (12) The Congressional Medal of Honor Society
15 has designated this site as the location of the Na-
16 tional Medal of Honor Museum, and the National
17 Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is a nonprofit
18 educational foundation established to design, fund,
19 build, and maintain the museum.

20 (13) The Medal of Honor Museum receives
21 funding support from the State of South Carolina
22 and is now in the construction design and funding
23 stage.

24 (14) The Medal of Honor Museum will become
25 the premier museum of the Medal of Honor, its re-

1 cipients, and their stories, and a place where people
2 will come to learn about Americans’ experiences dur-
3 ing critical periods in United States history and
4 where the history of American struggles against ag-
5 gression by would-be oppressors is preserved so that
6 future generations can understand the role the
7 United States continues to play in the preservation
8 and advancement of democracy and freedom.

9 (b) DESIGNATION.—In light of the findings contained
10 in subsection (a), the Medal of Honor Museum to be lo-
11 cated in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, is hereby des-
12 ignated as the “National Medal of Honor Museum”.

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