

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4328

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants for the rehabilitation of World War I memorials.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. POE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants for the rehabilitation of World War I memorials.

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 cited as the “Honoring World War I
5 Memorials Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

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

9 (1) From 2014 through 2018, the United
10 States and nations around the world mark the cen-

1 tennial of World War I, including the entry of the
2 United States into the war in April 1917.

3 (2) The United States entry into the war
4 marked the first time in the history of the United
5 States that American soldiers went abroad in de-
6 fense of liberty against foreign aggression and it
7 marked the true beginning of the “American Cen-
8 tury”.

9 (3) More than 4,000,000 men and women from
10 the United States served in uniform during World
11 War I and the United States suffered 375,000 cas-
12 ualties, including 116,516 deaths.

13 (4) In 2013, the World War I Centennial Com-
14 mission Act was signed into law with a stated goal
15 of ensuring “a suitable observance of the centennial
16 of World War I”.

17 (5) Part of the Centennial Commission’s stated
18 mission is to “bring attention to the thousands of
19 World War I memorials in communities across the
20 country that honor Americans who served in the
21 war”.

22 (6) The Centennial Commission has found that
23 “across the country there are local World War I me-
24 morials in thousands of cities and towns that are
25 forgotten and in disrepair”.

1 (7) The Centennial Commission has found suf-
2 ficient cause to establish a matching grant program
3 in recognition of the importance of rehabilitating
4 World War I memorials. However, the grant amount
5 of \$2,000 is too low for the needs of many memo-
6 rials.

7 (8) The Centennial Commission recognizes that
8 restoring World War I memorials honors those who
9 served and raises awareness of this momentous event
10 in the Nation's history.

11 **SEC. 3. WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL REHABILITATION GRANT**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
14 Affairs shall make grants to eligible entities for the pur-
15 pose of rehabilitating World War I memorials.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant
17 under this section, an entity shall—

18 (1) be a nonprofit organization or a State or
19 local government entity that owns or manages a
20 World War I memorial; and

21 (2) submit to the Secretary an application con-
22 taining such information and assurances as the Sec-
23 retary may require, including a description of the re-
24 habilitation project for which the entity seeks a
25 grant under this section.

1 (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In selecting
2 recipients of grants under this section, the Secretary shall
3 prioritize, in descending order, the following:

4 (1) Entities seeking grants to rehabilitate
5 World War I memorials listed on the National Reg-
6 ister of Historic Places.

7 (2) Entities seeking grants to rehabilitate
8 World War I memorials listed on a State register of
9 historic places.

10 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under
11 this section shall use the grant to rehabilitate a World
12 War I memorial.

13 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—Each grant provided under
14 this section shall be in an amount that does not exceed
15 \$15,000,000, and 50 percent of the cost of the rehabilita-
16 tion project described in the application submitted by the
17 eligible entity to which the grant is provided.

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to make grants
21 under this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to
22 such authorization of appropriations shall remain available
23 until expended.

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “rehabilitate” means, with respect
2 to a memorial, to repair, reconstruct, restore, refurbish,
3 or clean up the memorial consistent with the
4 Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment
5 of Historic Properties (36 C.F.R. 68) and applicable
6 guidelines.

7 (2) The term “World War I memorial” means
8 a memorial that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 determines is dedicated to the memory of those who
10 served in World War I, and does not include any
11 memorial to members of the Armed Forces serving
12 in multiple wars.

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