

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8397

To designate the National Service Animals Monument to recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Ms. WILD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the National Service Animals Monument to recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States, and for other purposes.

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 “National Service Ani-
5 mals Monument Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) service animals, such as dogs, horses, mules,
2 homing pigeons, and other animals, have accom-
3 panied and supported servicemembers throughout
4 history;

5 (2) service animals have worked alongside law
6 enforcement personnel and first responders in per-
7 forming vital, heroic, and often life-saving support
8 activities;

9 (3) shelter dogs are often trained as service ani-
10 mals;

11 (4) many veterans and individuals with disabil-
12 ities rely on the devotion, training, and care provided
13 by companion, guide, assistance, and therapy ani-
14 mals, which are increasingly important to improving
15 the quality of life of the veterans and individuals
16 with disabilities that rely on the animals;

17 (5) the Department of the Navy—

18 (A) uses sea lions, which have excellent
19 eyesight—

20 (i) to find and retrieve unarmed test
21 ordinance (including practice mines); and

22 (ii) to secure port complexes; and

23 (B) uses dolphins—

24 (i) to find and retrieve equipment lost
25 at sea;

1 (ii) to identify intruders in restricted
2 areas; and

3 (iii) to detect underwater mines;

4 (6) rescue dogs and handlers have been used in
5 many critical disaster settings, including—

6 (A) in the aftermath of avalanches or other
7 natural disasters; and

8 (B) during search and rescue missions,
9 such as the search and rescue missions after
10 the 9/11 terrorist attacks;

11 (7) during World War I and World War II—

12 (A) homing pigeons served as critical mes-
13 sengers with tiny message capsules attached to
14 the legs of the pigeons that were used to send
15 communications to save the lives of countless
16 soldiers, resulting in many pigeons becoming
17 the target of enemy fire; and

18 (B) donkeys and mules transported food,
19 supplies, ammunition, and wounded soldiers
20 during terrible hardships;

21 (8) the military working dog program in the
22 United States—

23 (A) began in World War II with the pro-
24 gram known as “Dogs for Defense”; and

1 (B) continues to be an active program in
2 the military;

3 (9) military working dogs—

4 (A) have saved tens of thousands of lives
5 through the service and sacrifice of the dogs;
6 and

7 (B) are one of the greatest assets of the
8 military;

9 (10) servicemembers have served on horseback
10 from the Revolutionary War to the war in Afghani-
11 stan;

12 (11) horses have carried wounded
13 servicemembers and critical supplies in support of
14 various military operations;

15 (12) the purple poppy is the international sym-
16 bol for the service and sacrifice of service animals;

17 (13) on February 24 of each year, National
18 Service Animals Day is celebrated in the United
19 States and throughout the world; and

20 (14) a National Service Animals Monument
21 would represent a place of pride, introspection, and
22 education to pay tribute to the contributions and
23 sacrifices made by all service animals and handlers
24 of service animals throughout history.

1 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MONUMENT AS NATIONAL SERV-**
2 **ICE ANIMALS MONUMENT.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—The monument to commemorate
4 and recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service
5 animals and the handlers of service animals in the United
6 States, to be constructed by the National Service Animals
7 Monument Corporation at a location determined to be ap-
8 propriate by the National Service Animals Monument Cor-
9 poration, is designated as the “National Service Animals
10 Monument”.

11 (b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The monument designated
13 by subsection (a) is not a unit of the National Park
14 System.

15 (2) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—The designation
16 of the monument by subsection (a) shall not require
17 Federal funds to be expended for any purpose relat-
18 ing to the monument.

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