

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3438

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 4, 2022

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, 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 Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the mission of the National Service Animals
2 Monument Corporation is to honor and recognize the
3 broad scope of service animals, including working
4 animals, through the establishment of a memorial to
5 educate the public about the contributions made by
6 service animals and the human-animal bond between
7 service animals and the handlers of the service ani-
8 mals, regardless of whether the handler is an indi-
9 vidual with a disability, a law enforcement officer,
10 military personnel, or any other individual;

11 (2) in 1929, formalized service animal work
12 began when the Eustice School in New Jersey estab-
13 lished the first guide-dog school;

14 (3) the purple poppy is the international symbol
15 for the service and sacrifice of service animals;

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

19 (5) service and working animals, such as dogs,
20 horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins,
21 sea lions, and other animals, have worked alongside
22 and supported humans throughout history and have
23 created strong human-animal bonds, including
24 when—

1 (A) during the Revolutionary War, horses
2 served in combat carrying soldiers and trans-
3 porting the wounded and critical supplies;

4 (B) during World War I and World War
5 II—

6 (i) homing pigeons served as critical
7 messengers with tiny message capsules at-
8 tached to the legs of the pigeons that were
9 used to send communications that saved
10 the lives of countless soldiers, resulting in
11 many pigeons becoming the target of
12 enemy fire; and

13 (ii) donkeys and mules transported
14 food, supplies, and wounded
15 servicemembers; and

16 (C) during the war in Afghanistan—

17 (i) military working dogs safeguarded
18 the lives of thousands of servicemembers
19 by clearing areas of improvised explosion
20 devices; and

21 (ii) as 1 example, Lucca, a German
22 Shepherd-Belgian Malinois service dog—

23 (I) was employed by the United
24 States Marine Corps for 6 years;

1 (II) was trained to detect explo-
2 sives;

3 (III) deployed twice to Iraq and
4 once to Afghanistan;

5 (IV) supported over 400 missions
6 without a single human fatality; and

7 (V) sustained an injury and am-
8 putation in 2012 due to an improvised
9 explosive device while on patrol in Af-
10 ghanistan;

11 (6) the bonds formed between law enforcement
12 and military personnel and working dogs are so
13 strong that the personnel and dogs have willingly
14 risked their lives to save each other;

15 (7) the tasks that service dogs perform for indi-
16 viduals with disabilities are essential activities of
17 daily living, such as—

18 (A) guiding individuals with visual impair-
19 ments;

20 (B) signaling sounds for individuals who
21 are deaf;

22 (C) retrieving items for individuals with
23 mobility issues;

24 (D) alerting the individuals about impend-
25 ing cardiac episodes or seizures;

1 (E) turning on lights for the individuals;

2 (F) providing stability for the individuals

3 while the individuals are standing; and

4 (G) pressing elevator and accessibility but-
5 tons for the individuals;

6 (8) in addition to the help of service animals
7 with functional tasks and missions, the human-ani-
8 mal bond provides handlers the ability to—

9 (A) live independently;

10 (B) work confidently; and

11 (C) socialize freely;

12 (9) shelter dogs can be trained as service ani-
13 mals;

14 (10) service animals, such as horses and dogs,
15 support—

16 (A) a variety of health and therapy serv-
17 ices, including for individuals with autism,
18 schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and bipolar
19 disorder; and

20 (B) servicemembers and veterans who ex-
21 perience traumatic brain injury and post-trau-
22 matic stress disorder;

23 (11) search and rescue dogs working with civil-
24 ian or law enforcement handlers make communities
25 in the United States and the United States overall

1 safer when assisting with the rescue of lost children,
2 seniors, and other at-risk individuals, including in
3 the event of natural or manmade disasters, such as
4 the support by service animals of—

5 (A) search and rescue missions after ter-
6 rorist attacks, including the Oklahoma City
7 bombing on April 19, 1995, and the terrorist
8 attack on September 11, 2001; and

9 (B) local search and rescue missions in-
10 volving lost children, such as—

11 (i) the service dog Mercy, a blood-
12 hound with the Lee County, Florida, Sher-
13 iff's department, who tracked a 12-year-old
14 girl for more than half a mile through
15 thick woods after the girl went missing
16 during Tropical Storm Elsa in July 2021;
17 and

18 (ii) the service dog Gandalf, trained
19 by the South Carolina Search and Rescue
20 Dog Association, who found a 12-year-old
21 boy who had vanished from a campsite in
22 the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Caro-
23 lina in March 2019;

24 (12) the extraordinary abilities of service ani-
25 mals, including smell, sensing, hearing, eyesight, and

1 empathy, make the service animals uniquely capable
2 of helping humans, including by—

3 (A) assisting with the identification of ille-
4 gal drugs;

5 (B) detecting an impending seizure;

6 (C) hearing an individual buried beneath
7 rubble; or

8 (D) seeing an expensive or vital tool
9 dropped by a naval diver;

10 (13) service animals provide well-documented
11 value to human health, safety, and security; and

12 (14) the National Service Animals Memorial
13 will represent a place of pride, introspection, and
14 education to pay tribute to the contributions and
15 sacrifices made by all service animals and the han-
16 dlers of service animals throughout history.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE**
18 **WORK.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Service Animals
20 Monument Corporation (referred to in this section as the
21 “Corporation”) may establish a commemorative work on
22 Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs
23 to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service
24 animals and handlers of service animals in the United
25 States.

1 (b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMO-
2 RATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemora-
3 tive work under this section shall be in accordance with
4 chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly
5 known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

6 (c) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL
7 FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be
9 used to pay any expense of the establishment of the
10 commemorative work under this section.

11 (2) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL SERV-
12 ICE ANIMALS MONUMENT CORPORATION.—The Cor-
13 poration shall be solely responsible for the accept-
14 ance of contributions for, and the payment of the ex-
15 penses of, the establishment of the commemorative
16 work under this section.

17 (d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, on payment of all ex-
19 penses for the establishment of the commemorative
20 work under this section (including the maintenance
21 and preservation amount required by section
22 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there
23 remains a balance of funds received for the estab-
24 lishment of the commemorative work, the Corpora-
25 tion shall transmit the amount of the balance to the

1 Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account
2 provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United
3 States Code.

4 (2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If, on ex-
5 piration of the authority for the commemorative
6 work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United
7 States Code, there remains a balance of funds re-
8 ceived for the establishment of the commemorative
9 work under this section, the Corporation shall trans-
10 mit the amount of the balance to a separate account
11 with the National Park Foundation for memorials,
12 to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the
13 Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in
14 accordance with the process provided in section
15 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for ac-
16 counts established under paragraph (2) or (3) of
17 section 8906(b) of that title.

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