

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1980

To authorize the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a national monument in the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN (for himself, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GRIMM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. MCCOTTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a national monument in the District of Columbia.

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 “Gold Star Mothers Na-
5 tional Monument Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) During World War I, mothers of sons and
4 daughters who served in the Armed Forces displayed
5 flags bearing a blue star to represent their pride in
6 their sons and daughters and their hope that their
7 sons and daughters would return home safely.

8 (2) For more than 650,000 of these mothers,
9 that hope was shattered, and many of them, both
10 during and after World War I, began displaying
11 flags bearing a gold star to represent the sacrifice
12 that their sons and daughters made for freedom and
13 this country.

14 (3) Over the years, the gold star has come to
15 represent a child who was killed while serving in the
16 Armed Forces, including a child who died during
17 combat or during peacetime; either way the child
18 was a hero to his or her family and country.

19 (4) In 1929, Congress passed a law authorizing
20 the Federal Government to disburse funds for Gold
21 Star Mothers, and widows of those who were killed
22 while serving in the Armed Forces during World
23 War I, to travel to the battlefields of Europe to visit
24 the burial sites of their loved ones.

25 (5) On June 23, 1936, Congress passed Senate
26 Joint Resolution 115 (74th Congress), which estab-

1 lished the last Sunday in September as Gold Star
2 Mother's Day.

3 (6) Gold Star Mothers, a most deserving group,
4 should be honored to commemorate the sacrifices
5 that they, and their sons and daughters, made for
6 this country.

7 **SEC. 3. GOLD STAR MOTHERS NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Gold Star Mothers Na-
9 tional Monument Foundation (a nonprofit corporation es-
10 tablished under the laws of the District of Columbia) is
11 authorized to establish a monument on Federal land in
12 the District of Columbia or its environs, as a unit of the
13 National Park System. The monument shall be known as
14 the “Gold Star Mothers National Monument”.

15 (b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMO-
16 RATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the monument
17 shall be carried out in accordance with the Commemora-
18 tive Works Act (40 U.S.C. 8901 et seq.).

19 (c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Gold Star Moth-
20 ers National Monument Foundation shall be solely respon-
21 sible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of
22 the expenses of, the establishment of the monument, and
23 no Federal funds may be used to pay such expenses.

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