

NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 760	S. 2726
S. 1838	S. 2738
S. 2097	H.R. 1849
S. 2722	H.R. 3689

DECEMBER 3, 2009



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NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Mark Udall presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARK UDALL, U.S. SENATOR FROM COLORADO

Senator UDALL. The Subcommittee on National Parks will come to order.

This afternoon we have a very full agenda of eight bills, including several national memorial proposals. While some of the bills appear to be noncontroversial, a few of the bills do raise issues that will require greater review.

Three of the bills on the agenda concern a proposed World War I National Memorial. S. 760, sponsored by Senators McCaskill and Bond, would designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, as does the House companion measure, H.R. 1849, sponsored by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, who we will hear from in just a few minutes.

We will also be receiving testimony on a different World War I memorial proposal, S. 2097, sponsored by Senators Thune, Webb, Rockefeller, and several others, which would rededicate the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial.

The other bills on the subcommittee's agenda include S. 1838, Senator Landrieu's bill to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial—the 150th anniversary of the Civil War; S. 2722, Senator Barrasso's bill to authorize a study of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming, to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System; S. 2726, Senator Johnson's bill to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota; S. 2738, sponsored by Senators Dodd and Grassley, which would authorize establishment of a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution; and H.R. 3689, sponsored by Congressman Rahall, which would ex-

tend the legislative authority for construction of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial visitors center.

We do have a lengthy witness list this afternoon. Several of our colleagues have asked to testify, we need to hear the administration's views on all bills, and we have several witnesses testifying on the various proposals.

I'm also informed that there are likely to be votes on the Senate floor this afternoon, beginning around 2:45. So that we have enough time to hear from everyone, I would ask everyone to please summarize your statements as much as possible. We will include your written statements and any other materials in the official hearing record.

At this point, I'd like to recognize the ranking member of the subcommittee, Senator Burr, for any comments he may have.

[The prepared statements of Senators Landrieu, Dodd, Barrasso, and Enzi follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. MARY L. LANDRIEU, U.S. SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA,
ON S. 1838

The American Civil War, fought from 1861-1865, tore the United States apart, and engaged the U.S. in the most deadly struggle that has ever befallen our great Nation. As we approach the War's 150th anniversary, we must remember the contributions of our forefathers, those many Americans who gave their lives to make America what it is now. That is why I introduced the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009, along with my colleague, Senator Webb, to commemorate this turning point in American history.

We all studied the Civil War in school. We know that the opening shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina in April of 1861 and that Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant agreed to peace at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. We recognize those most horrific battles-Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and the 10,000 other sites from New Mexico to Vermont that were host to fighting. We celebrate the strength and bravery of individuals such as Frederick Douglas and Harriett Tubman who risked everything to combat the deplorable institution of slavery. And every February, we observe President Lincoln's birthday, a day to recollect his legacy. The Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg address are two of the most memorable documents in American history, and it is thanks to President Lincoln that slavery was eradicated.

These are the most memorable aspects of the Civil War, but the influence and impact reaches so much further. The American Civil War has reverberated throughout our history. Every aspect of American life was affected whether economic, cultural, political, or otherwise. The most profound consequence of the Civil War was to end the legal edifice that justified the subjugation of people based on accidental characteristics such as race.

We must remember what our forefathers sacrificed for us. More than 3 million men fought in the Civil War. They left their homes and their loved ones to fight for their beliefs, their families, their Nation. 620,000 of those soldiers gave their lives.

We must remember the untold number of civilians who lost their lives or welfare because the battles were taking place all around them. No State, city, community, or family was untouched by devastation or loss.

We must remember the legacies of the Civil War. The United States emerged completely altered after the four years of struggle, and as a testament of American resilience, grew stronger than it was before. The cultural and political ramifications still shape the American landscape today. It was in the era of Reconstruction that Congress adopted the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, acknowledging black Americans as free and equal citizens of the United States.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009 is about preserving the memory. It will establish a Commission to ensure a suitable national observance. Consisting of 25 members from government, business and academia, this commission will develop and carry out programs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. It will work together with State and local governments, as well as various organizations, to assist with these activities and ensure that remembrance occurs at every level.

The year 2011 marks the anniversary of a monumentally tragic time in American history, but also a time of intensive change, growth, and hope. We must use this opportunity to reflect upon the Civil War, the sacrifices, legacies, and changes in our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support quick passage of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009.

Thank you for your consideration.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, U.S. SENATOR FROM
CONNECTICUT, ON S. 2738

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for holding this hearing on the National Liberty Memorial Act, a bill I introduced with my colleague Senator Grassley. This important legislation would authorize the construction of a memorial in Washington, D.C. honoring the African American patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War.

For too long, the role these brave Americans played in the founding of our nation has been relegated to the dusty back pages of history. Fortunately, historians are now beginning to uncover their forgotten heroism, and they estimate that more than 5,000 slaves and free blacks fought in the Army, Navy, and militia during the Revolutionary War. They served and struggled in major battles from Lexington and Concord to Yorktown, fighting side by side with white soldiers. More than 400 of these brave Americans hailed from my home state of Connecticut.

More than twenty years ago, Congress authorized a memorial to black Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors, those who provided civilian assistance, and the many slaves who fled slavery or filed petitions to courts or legislatures for their freedom. Unfortunately, the group originally authorized to raise funds for and build the memorial was unable to conclude its task, and there remains no memorial to the important, and too often unacknowledged, contributions made by these 5,000 Americans.

But a group of committed citizens has formed the Liberty Fund DC to complete this memorial and ensure that these patriots receive the tribute they deserve here in our nation's capital. I'm grateful that the Committee has invited Mr. Maurice Barboza to testify to the importance of this memorial today today, and I am honored to work alongside Mr. Barboza and the many others who have made honoring the contributions of these Americans their life's work.

The time has come to recognize the sacrifice and the impact of the African Americans who fought for the birth of our country. I urge my colleagues to support the National Liberty Memorial Act.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN BARRASSO, U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING,
ON S. 2722

Thank you for holding this hearing today Mr. Chairman on S.2722, the "Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act." This legislation will authorize the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the site of Heart Mountain Relocation Center near Powell, Wyoming.

The site is an important part of our national history and of the history of our communities in western Wyoming. Between 1942 and 1945, when Japanese American families from the West Coast were forcibly moved to Park County, Wyoming and interned at the site near Heart Mountain. During those years, the Heart Mountain site was the third-largest community in Wyoming, housing nearly 11,000 Japanese Americans. The experience during those years shaped internees and local residents alike. It represents an important chapter in American history.

This legislation is a credit to the individuals, local communities and grassroots organizations supporting recognition of the Heart Mountain site. I have submitted eleven separate letters of support for S.2722 to be a part of today's hearing record. I encourage Senators to read the heartfelt comments of Senator Alan Simpson and Secretary Norman Mineta about their experience as children at Heart Mountain. They are accompanied by support from local organizations, including the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the Park County Commissioners, along with national organizations, including The Conservation Fund, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act will help to define this historic site. It will allow us to determine the best way to recognize the site as an important part of our national history. I look forward to working with this Committee to advance consideration of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. MICHAEL B. ENZI, U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING,
ON S. 2722

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding a hearing today on S. 2722, the Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act of 2009. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a unit of the National Park System.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming was one of ten relocation centers created during World War II to house Japanese and Japanese-Americans who were forcibly relocated inland from the west coast. The current site contains the most existing structures of any site in the country. To memorialize this history, the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation is working to develop a Learning Center on the site of the Internment Camp. The Foundation is a well-established and credible organization with notable Board and Advisory Board members including former Senator Alan Simpson and former U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta. Senator Simpson and Secretary Mineta first met as Boy Scouts when Senator Simpson's Cody, Wyoming Scout Troop visited Secretary Mineta's troop while he was interned as a young man in the Heart Mountain camp. They developed a bond that would last for decades and eventually served in Congress together.

Private and public entities alike strongly believe that Heart Mountain, Wyoming should be preserved for future generations. I, too, believe preservation of one of our country's landmarks from World War II should be saved so our children and grandchildren have another tool to learn about our country's history. There are many ways to preserve this important landmark, and our legislation allows for study of one of those methods.

With introduction of S. 2722, we are examining whether the Heart Mountain Relocation Center meets the criteria to be a part of our National Park System. Simply because we introduced this legislation does not guarantee that Heart Mountain will become a part of the National Park System. The bill will allow the Secretary to study that question and to make a recommendation based on the merits of Heart Mountain and how it would fit within the entire National Park System.

Heart Mountain Camp internees want to leave a legacy of learning through this Center to future generations such that abridgements of freedoms and lack of ethnic understanding not occur again in this great country. Preserving the land and structures and building the Learning Center will do just that. The Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act of 2009 is the next step forward in making their dream a reality.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for considering the merits of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center Study Act of 2009. Senator Barrasso and I look forward to working with you on further advancing this legislation this Congress.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD BURR, U.S. SENATOR FROM
NORTH CAROLINA**

Senator BURR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We do have a full agenda—and I'll be brief—an agenda that includes 8 bills.

I understand that today's hearing is probably the last of this subcommittee this year. Yay. We're glad to be at that point, and I'd like to take this moment to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman Udall of the subcommittee. It's been very productive so far this year, and I know all the members appreciate the leadership in addressing their bills in a timely fashion.

Most of the bills before us today involve memorials in Washington, DC, and elsewhere. All these memorials commemorate very important historic events in our Nation's history, but one bill is particularly important to me, S. 2097, which I cosponsored, to rededicate the DC War Memorial as a National and DC World War I Memorial, also known as the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act.

We are very honored to have Mr. Buckles here with us today, and I would like to not only thank him for his service to his country, but also for joining us here today in an effort to establish a World War I Memorial for all of our Nation's veterans on our National Mall.

Having said that, there's also competing legislation. I think it's important for all members to thoroughly look at both pieces of legislation and to fairly evaluate both proposals that are on the table.

I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here.

I yield the floor.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Senator Burr.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Buckles' daughter, Suzanne, is here. I was pleased to learn from her that Mr. Buckles is a big fan of cowboy boots, and I was lucky enough to have my cowboy boots on today. So, I want to associate myself with the fine words of Senator Burr and thank Mr. Buckles for taking the time to be with us.

Let me turn to Senator Rockefeller for comments he would have. Senator Rockefeller, the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV, U.S.
SENATOR FROM WEST VIRGINIA**

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the ranking member, with whom I serve on the Veterans Committee.

This is a very important effort that Senator Thune, Senator Webb, myself, and others are making here, the so-called "Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act." I'm especially proud to introduce Mr. Buckles, and, with the committee's permission, after—I understand the committee will allow him to say a word. His daughter, Suzanne, as you pointed out, is here. She's integral to his life. I've been to his house and walked with awe through his library to see books written in Chinese and German and French and Spanish, all of which he spoke at one time or another, and probably still does. Extraordinarily—not just patriotic but educated and visionary patriot.

I think it's really important that we have this memorial. I recognize there are others that have their views, but this is Washington, DC. This would not be the creation of a new mall, it would be the rededication of a mall—of a memorial that Herbert Hoover dedicated for those who served in World War I, but it's never really gone over to the full veteran side of matters, as have—is the case with some others that just honor those who died in World War I. The wounds from World War I were often not very well treated, and—so that Frank Buckles is not here today just to share his remarkable story of valor and his own historic nature, but also as chairman of the World War I Memorial Foundation.

Washington is the capital of the Nation. It's the center point of the spiritual value. Some could say that Congress doesn't always present all those spiritual values in the most admirable way, but, in terms of our fighting soldiers and our great moments in history and our great patriots, this is the center, and this is where they deserve to be honored.

I honestly believe, and strongly believe, that our Nation owes a tremendous debt—more 4.3 million Americans, who, like Frank

Buckles, offered to go to service for a period of 4 years. So, I strongly support Senator Thune, Senator Webb's and my proposal to have that firmly established, not just for the dead, but also for the survivors, of whom there is only one, and he's with us in this room. At the conclusion of the other two members' presentation, I would ask—hope that I could ask Mr. Buckles to say a word.

I thank the Chair.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Senator Rockefeller.

Let me turn to Senator Thune for his remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN THUNE, U.S. SENATOR FROM
SOUTH DAKOTA**

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is a great honor to be able to be here today, in the presence of the lone survivor of that great conflict. I appreciate Senator Rockefeller, who is Mr. Buckles' home-State Senator, taking a lead on this, and Senator Webb, who has combat experience, been a great advocate for those who have served our country.

We think that this bill—what it does is, it does something that I think is very fitting, and that is to add a memorial to those veterans of World War I. We have what we call the “memorial triangle” on the National Mall today—World War II, Korea, Vietnam. There were, as Senator Rockefeller said, over 4 million Americans who served in World War I; over 100,000 casualties. It really was the first step in America's path to superpower status, something that—there was so much sacrifice that was made by people in this country, although we were only involved in the conflict for about 18 months.

So, I think it's fitting that all the great wars of the 20th century have their place on the National Mall, so that the people, when they come here to pay their respects and to honor and pay tribute to those who served in all those great conflicts, to also have the opportunity to honor the veterans of World War I.

So, I hope that we can move this legislation. I hope we can move it fairly quickly. I understand the issues with regard to Missouri. I hope that we can work through those. It seems, to me at least, that where—with respect to our National Mall, that we ought to have a place that recognizes the service and sacrifice of our World War veterans—World War I veterans.

Particularly honored, as I said, to have the lone survivor, the last man standing from World War I with us here today, in Mr. Frank Buckles.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity, and appreciate the chance to have a hearing on this legislation.

[The prepared statement of Senator Thune follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN THUNE, U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA,
ON S. 2097

Chairman Udall, Ranking Member Burr, distinguished colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to discuss S. 2097, the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act. For far too long, the sacrifices of American World War I veterans have gone unrecognized on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Senator Rockefeller, Senator Webb and I introduced this legislation to provide proper recognition, which is long overdue.

The Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act would rededicate the existing District of Columbia War Memorial as the National and District of Columbia World

War I Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The act is named for Frank Buckles of West Virginia, who at 108 years of age is the last surviving American World War I veteran.

While the United States was in World War I for only 18 months, the war had profound effects on our nation. Without question, World War I thrust the U.S. onto the world stage. The U.S. lost over 100,000 brave men fighting the war, more than both the Korean War and Vietnam War combined.

Today, memorials on our National Mall rightfully honor the men and women who served and sacrificed during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. However, nowhere on the National Mall do we recognize the service and sacrifices of all American World War I veterans—veterans like Frank Buckles.

At 108 years old, Frank Buckles is the last surviving American World War I veteran. He joined the Army at the age of 16 and served in Europe during World War I, driving ambulances and motorcycles for a casualty detachment. Mr. Buckles is also the Honorary Chairman of the World War I Memorial Foundation, which is seeking refurbishment of the District of Columbia War Memorial and its establishment as the National World War I Memorial on the National Mall. S. 2097, The Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act will help to make this vision a reality.

The District of Columbia War Memorial honors the 499 District of Columbia residents who died in World War I. This legislation would rededicate the District of Columbia memorial as the “National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial.” The legislation would also authorize the non-profit World War I Memorial Foundation to make repairs and improvements to the existing memorial, as well as install new sculptures or other commemorations at the memorial to underscore the sacrifice of over 4 million Americans who served in World War I.

The bill would not require any taxpayer dollars because the World War I Memorial Foundation would raise the necessary funds through private donations.

All of the major wars our nation has fought in the 20th century are memorialized on the National Mall. Rededicating the District of Columbia World War I Memorial as the National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial fits the narrative of the Mall, with its wonderful memorials to World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. I think it only makes sense to rededicate a memorial to this twentieth century war that established our nation’s path to superpower status among the community of nations. I can think of no better way to honor Mr. Buckles and his departed comrades than by passing this bill which would provide long overdue recognition of all World War I veterans in our nation’s capital.

Thank you for holding this hearing today. I look forward to working with this subcommittee and my colleagues to pass this bill.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Senator Thune, for those thoughtful remarks and for taking the time to join the subcommittee.

Senator WEBB.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JIM WEBB, U.S. SENATOR
FROM VIRGINIA**

Senator WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also, Senator Burr, for your cosponsoring of the measure. I appreciate that—the timely hearing that you brought forward here.

I would like also to express my appreciation to Senator Thune for having originally brought forth this idea. It’s a very sensible approach. Actually, My personal view is that we might be able to do something in concert with the other proposal. I recently spoke at the National Civil War Museum. It’s in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It would be logical, if they were able to make their case for a World War I Museum, that it might be appropriately located in Missouri, where President Truman hailed from. He was a veteran of World War I. But, in terms of a national memorial to World War I service, I don’t think there could be any better place.

If I could just ask my staff member to put this—with thanks to Google Earth. This the Mall. To your left would be the Lincoln Memorial; to the right would be the Washington Monument. You can see the—just the natural flow of the wars of the 20th century, if

we were to put the—to take this memorial in the right—lower right-hand corner, which is now the District of Columbia War Memorial, not add any more space, and no cost—this is privately funded—then you would have, in the Mall area, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and then, going clockwise, the World War II Memorial, the World War I Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. I can think of no greater tribute to those who fought the larger wars of the 20th century, to have them located in a way that they can be accessible to those who come and visit our national capital.

With that, I again thank the Chair for this timely hearing. I hope we can work out something with the situation in Missouri.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator UDALL. Senator Rockefeller, let me turn to you, if I might, because the vote has just been called. We have been joined by Congressman Cleaver, and I know we want to hear his testimony, but I think it's very important to hear from Mr. Buckles, so I'd like to recognize you and—

The CHAIRMAN. There's no need to introduce Frank Buckles. He's the last man standing, and an extraordinary man, at that. I just think that he should, as chairman of the Foundation—honorary chairman of the Foundation, have something to say. I appreciate your courtesy on this matter, of course.

Senator UDALL. Mr. Buckles, the floor is yours.

Voice: Papa, you want to—go ahead and tell them what you think. Can you do it?

Mr. BUCKLES. What am I supposed to say?

Voice: You're supposed to tell them what you think about having a World War I Memorial on the Mall.

Mr. BUCKLES. Oh. I think it's an excellent idea. I think it was a nice idea to call it a National and—DC.

Voice: Thank you, sir.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Buckles.

I'm tempted to adjourn the hearing, because the case has been made—

[Laughter.]

Senator UDALL [continuing]. But I know Senator Bond and Senator McCaskill would want to have their say, as well, as Congressman Cleaver is here to testify.

Congressman Cleaver, thank you for making the trip over to the Senate side. It's great to see you. We served together in the House. You'd like to share your testimony with us at this time, and the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI**

Mr. CLEAVER. Sure. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, it is somewhat uncomfortable testifying in opposition to some folk with whom I agree, about 99 percent of the time. But, I think it may have some importance for me to share with this committee what's going on in Kansas City. I think it is important, also, that, if you have not seen the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, that it's difficult to have a good perspective.

Mr. Chairman, before you is a newspaper article—front-page newspaper article, from the Kansas City Star. This newspaper arti-

cle is important because, shortly after I became mayor, the first directive from me was to restore the eternal flame at the top of the Liberty Memorial. It's actually steam, it's not flame. The Liberty Memorial, which you'll hear from our director shortly, was an effort put together by people in the community shortly after the end of World War I. It was built completely, and financed, by the people of Kansas City, Missouri. It went into some decay.

I came to Washington as mayor, made a request that the Liberty Memorial be taken over by the National Park Service. They politely declined, saying that the National Park Service had difficulty trying to maintain all of the memorials they presently hold responsibility for.

I went back to Kansas and City and made a pitch to the voters Kansas City. They responded and approved a sales tax, which was used to restore the Liberty Memorial. From that point on, the people of Kansas City, Missouri—the voters—decided that this was something that we would do. We would assume the responsibility. We did not want one dime from the Federal Government. This is no small monument.

This is the Liberty Memorial today. This is downtown Kansas City in the background, Missouri's largest city. This is the Liberty Memorial. Just 11 months ago, President Barack Obama stood on the mall with 75,000 people in the background. I drew the people there, but he spoke—

[Laughter.]

Mr. CLEAVER [continuing]. After I spoke. Seventy-five thousand people on the mall of the Liberty Memorial.

Every year, there's a Veterans Day observance, where people from all over—all over the country—in fact, Mr. Buckles, 2 years ago, I sat next to him and his daughter at the Liberty Memorial on Veterans Day. The people of Kansas City, Missouri, are saying to the U.S. Senate the same thing they said to the House, which voted 418 to 1 to support this, that we want absolutely no money from the United States Federal Government. We don't need to raise any money around the country. We are going to assume the responsibility for supporting and preserving the Liberty Memorial, which was built not as a municipal memorial, but as the national memorial, which is why 100,000 people, including all five leaders of the allied forces, gathered here for the beginning and opening to the Liberty Memorial. This is a national monument. If there is, sometime in the future, a need for repair, we will do it.

We've added an entire dimension to it—a new dimension to this, because now we have a museum on the lower level of the museum. It is one of the most stately monuments that you will see anyplace, day or night. You can see it from all over Kansas City. Our community is a city that stretches 322 square miles. You can virtually see the top of the Liberty Memorial anyplace in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a city, as we say, on a hill.

So, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I think that what we are trying to say to you, and we successfully said it to our colleagues in the House, across party lines, that this was something that our community will continue to give for the Nation. We assume the responsibility completely, and we hope that you would

see fit to give the people of Kansas City the opportunity to continue to spend their own money to preserve something for the Nation.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Cleaver follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI, ON S. 760 AND H.R. 1849

Chairman Udall, Ranking Member Burr and other members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of S. 760 and H.R.1849 to designate the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial and to establish a World War I Centennial Commission. Along with my Missouri colleagues, Representatives Akin, Blunt, Carnahan, Clay, Emerson, Graves, Luetkemeyer, and Skelton, plus 101 other House cosponsors, we introduced and passed a bill in the House of Representatives designating the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial by a vote of 418-1. This bill also establishes a Centennial Commission to ensure a fitting observance of the centennial of World War I.

The First World War extended through four of the bloodiest years in world history. This truly global conflict involved the world's major powers, mobilizing over 70 million military forces. The War to End All Wars ended with an armistice on November 11, 1918 on the Western Front in Europe, after approximately 16 million military and civilian deaths across the globe, including 375,000 American casualties. The death and destruction of World War I irrevocably impacted the lens through which people viewed the world: The optimism that initiated the early 1900s was swiftly sobered by a consciousness that came to be known as the Lost Generation.

Many people, however, were determined to make this generation a generation remembered and honored. Concerned American citizens in Kansas City, Missouri initiated a movement to erect a lasting and meaningful monument to the men and women who served and died for liberty in World War I.

According to R.A. Long, the founding president of the Liberty Memorial Association, the 217-foot Liberty Memorial was intended to represent "on the part of all people, a living expression for all time of the gratitude of a grateful people to those who offered and who gave their lives in defense of liberty and our country." In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Missouri expressed an outpouring of support and raised more than \$2,500,000.00, or the equivalent of \$30, 815,028.90 today, in two weeks for a memorial to the service of Americans in World War I. This fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, at the forefront of everyone's memory.

H. Van Buren Magonigle won a national architectural competition officiated by the American Institute of Architects to further transform the Liberty Memorial idea into reality. On November 1, 1921, nearly 200,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Liberty memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. The dedication marked the only time in history that the five allied military leaders—Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshall Ferdinand Foch of France, General John J. Pershing of the United States, and Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were together at one place. General Pershing echoed the significance of the dedication by asserting, "[t]he people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and their heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country's armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited."

Shortly after its dedication, the Liberty Memorial was again distinguished during an Armistice Day ceremony in 1926 when President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of its three-year construction project by laying the cornerstone of the memorial. In his dedication speech, President Coolidge declared that "[. . .] the magnitude of this memorial and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration [. . .]." A message on the Liberty Memorial's tower bears an inscription that inspired its namesake: "In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and our Country." Four stone "Guardian Spirits" representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice proudly perch above an observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served in World War I.

The evidence articulated above demonstrates that the Liberty Memorial already is, has been, and deserves to be regarded as a national tribute to World War I. This

legislation aims to make official what so many people already consider to be the National World War I Memorial.

While we look to the Liberty Memorial in remembrance of World War I, we likewise must look to the upcoming World War I centennial, to be honored in 2017. To ensure a proper observance of the World War I centennial, this legislation also aims to create a commission to be known as the World War I Centennial Commission. The Commission will promote not only a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, but will also recognize the values of honor, courage, patriotism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of these values through the four Guardian Sprits sculpted on the Liberty Memorial Monument. The Commission will plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I. With Kansas City, Missouri as its official host, the Commission will be composed of twenty-four members who will work together to facilitate and coordinate activities throughout the United States to honor the Great War.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Burr, it is with great pride that I speak for myself, our Missouri Congressional Delegation and the citizens of Missouri in support of this legislation to make official the historic, powerful, and unparalleled stature of the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial coupled with the establishment of the World War I Centennial Commission to properly observe the World War I centennial. We owe the Liberty Memorial's designation as the National World War I Memorial to the hundreds of thousands of people, including those who served our country in World War I, who have looked to the Liberty Memorial as the interminable symbol of sacrifice and sovereignty that continue to shape our country. The World War I Centennial Commission will further observe America's historic commitment to freedom and appropriately remember those who fought for our country in the War to End All Wars.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Burr, attached to my testimony is an overview of events at the Liberty Memorial, a time line of Significant Dates at the Liberty Memorial and reasons to support the Liberty Memorial designation as the National World War I Memorial.

ATTACHMENT.—OVERVIEW, TIMELINE AND REASONS TO SUPPORT OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AS THE NATIONAL WWI MEMORIAL

Historical Background Overview

- An armistice was declared on November 11, 1918 to end the fighting on the Western Front.
 - Concerned citizens in Kansas City, Missouri were determined to commemorate those who served in WWI.
 - Shortly after the armistice in November 1918, community leaders galvanized a campaign to raise money for the construction of a lasting tribute to the men and women who fought in WWI.
 - Within ten days—during an influenza epidemic—Kansas Citizens raised \$2.5 million for the construction of what came to be known as the Liberty Memorial. \$2.5 million calculated for inflation in today's currency would be worth \$30,815,028.90.
 - This fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, at the forefront of everyone's memory. The slogan of the campaign was "Lest the Ages Forget."
 - Following the fund raiser was a national competition for the selection of the New York architect H. Van Buren Magonigle.
 - Construction of the Liberty Memorial began in 1921 which was commemorated with a dedication ceremony on November 1, 1921, attended by General John J. Pershing of the United States; Admiral Lord Beatty of Great Britain; General Armando Diaz of Italy; Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France; and Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium.
- The dedication marked the only time in history that the five allied military leaders were together at one place.
- The allied military leaders spoke to a crowd of nearly 200,000.
- General Pershing echoed the significance of the dedication by asserting, "[t]he people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and their heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country's armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited."

- Harry S. Truman played a high-profile role in the parade following the 1921 dedication ceremony as Vice Chairman of the Decoration Committee of the American Legion.
- On Armistice Day in 1926, President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of the three-year construction project by laying the cornerstone of the memorial.
 - In his dedication speech, President Coolidge declared that “[. . .] the magnitude of this memorial and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration [. . .].”
- There has been a Veterans Day observance at the Liberty Memorial every year since 1926.
- There has been a Memorial Day observance at the Liberty Memorial every year since 1948.
- A rededication ceremony in 1961 was marked by the attendance of President Harry S. Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
 - Then Mayor H. Roe Bartle expressed his support of the rededication ceremony: “For four decades Kansas City has pointed to its unique and unusual war memorial with pride. Millions of people from over the globe have visited our shrine to our heroic dead who fought in World War I for freedom of the world. It pleases me that the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other veterans’ associations are joining hands with the city to make the 40th anniversary program an event not soon to be forgotten.”
 - Representatives from 57 nations were present at the rededication ceremony; this was the largest diplomatic gathering ever assembled in the Middle West.
 - A crowd of 40,000 attended the ceremony; as in the celebrations of 1921 and 1926, schools dismissed afternoon classes and businesses around Kansas City closed their doors for the event.
 - President Eisenhower delivered a speech addressing his hopes for everlasting world peace and the elimination of totalitarian power.
- A rededication ceremony in 2002 was attended by General Myers as the Keynote as well as dignitaries from Italy, France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom.
- The Liberty Memorial that overlooks Kansas City extends far beyond the Kansas City limits. The Memorial serves as a perennial reminder of and for all Americans who served our country during World War I.

Reasons to Support the Liberty Memorial as the World War I National Memorial

- The Liberty Memorial already exists and would not require any additional construction.
- The Liberty Memorial is open to a partnership with the National Parks Service, but would prefer independent administration.
- The Liberty Memorial was recognized by the 106th Congress as a national symbol of World War I. (The concurrent Resolution was passed on October 24, 2000, “Recognizing the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, as a national World War I symbol honoring those who defended liberty and our country through service in World War I.”)
- The Liberty Memorial is a National Landmark (as of September 20, 2006).
- The Liberty Memorial has been designated as a National Symbol for World War I.
- The Liberty Memorial ultimately seeks the recognition as the National WWI Memorial; it does not necessarily wish to be managed by the National Parks Service. As with the designation of the National WWI Museum, the Liberty Memorial would prefer to be independently administered. Hundreds of thousands of people—since the memorial’s inception and even today—regard the Liberty Memorial as a powerful symbol of and tribute to Americans who served in World War I.
- There is no nationally recognized memorial honoring the service of Americans who served in World War I.
- Kansas City is home to the National World War I Museum (as designated by Congress in 2004), which is adjacent to the Liberty Memorial.
- An inscription on the Liberty Memorial tower reads, “In honor of those who served in the world war in defense of liberty and our country.”
- Many other national monuments exist outside of Washington, DC (examples include the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota; the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri; the AIDS Memorial Grove in

San Francisco, California; the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Chamizal National Memorial in Texas, etc.)

- Not only does the Liberty Memorial already exist, it boasts an extensive and unparalleled history.
- H.R. 1849, the World War I Memorial and Centennial Act of 2009, passed the House of Representatives on November 5, 2009, by a vote of 418-1.

Important Dates at the Liberty Memorial

November 11, 1918	at 11am	Armistice ended fighting on the Western front.
November	1918	Citizens gathered to gather support to create a lasting monument to those who serve and those who died.
	1919	Campaign initiated to raise money. In only ten days and in the middle of a deadly influenza epidemic, Kansas Citizens gave generously to the fund drive, whose slogan was "Lest the Ages Forget."
	1921	Site Dedication: Construction began with a dedication ceremony with General John J. Pershing of the United States, Admiral Lord Early Beatty of Great Britain, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, and Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium. Harry S. Truman played a high-profile role in the parade following the 1921 dedication ceremony for the Liberty Memorial. Vice President Coolidge was also in attendance.
	1926	Armistice Day, Opening day and Dedication for the Liberty Memorial led by President Coolidge who gave a speech.
	1926-present	Every Veterans Day has been observed at the Liberty Memorial.
	1948-present	Every Memorial Day has been observed at the Liberty Memorial.
	1961	Rededication Ceremony—President Harry S. Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower were in attendance.
	2002	Rededication—General Myers was Keynote, Dignitaries from Italy, France, Belgium and United Kingdom were also in attendance.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Congressman Cleaver, for those compelling words, and for the history that's attached to the project that you led and brought to fruition. We look forward to working with you, and the Senators that are here, to find a reasonable way forward, to commemorate the work of people like Frank Buckles, and the heroism that is attached to it.

I think we do have a vote on the floor of Senate at this time. I think we ought to recess the committee, and we'll return as quickly as we can to continue the hearing.

So, thanks, again, to the witnesses who took the time to join us. Thanks, to Mr. Buckles.

[Recess.]

Senator UDALL. The Subcommittee on National Parks will come to order.

Before I recognize Ms. Stevenson for her testimony, I wanted to make a few announcements.

Senator McCaskill, the sponsor of S. 760, was unable to be here today, but has submitted a statement, and, without objection, it will be included in the hearing record. She has also submitted letters of support from the American Legion, the VFW, and the family of Sergeant Alvin C. York, and, without objection, those letters* will be included in the record, as well.

[The prepared statement of Senator McCaskill follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. CLAIRE MCCASKILL, U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI

I would like to thank the Chairman Udall and Ranking Member Burr for holding this hearing on S.760 and H.R. 1849, to designate the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial and to establish a World War I Centennial Commission. These bills seek to honor the patriotism and dedication of those who fought in World War I (WWI), as well as those who have sought to preserve that honor embodied in a national memorial and museum.

Just two weeks after the 1918 Armistice, members of the Kansas City community embarked on a campaign to create a grand monument and museum to honor all those who fought and lost their lives in WWI. A community-based fundraising drive in 1919 raised over \$2.5 million from citizens across the in US in just ten days. This was unprecedented for the time and reflected the passion of citizens from across the United States to support Kansas City's efforts to establish a memorial to all of WWI's fallen heroes. The national scope of the support for the endeavor and the inclusion of all of the nation's WWI fallen as part of the Memorial set the foundation for the Memorial to be recognized as a National memorial, a moniker we now seek to finally give the memorial.

Underscoring the scope and breadth of the Memorial, during the 1921 site dedication in Kansas City, the military commanders from each of the five Allied nations attended the dedication—the only time in history the five senior most military leaders from WWI were together in one place at the same time. Subsequently, after 3 years of construction, the two hundred and seventeen foot tall memorial was dedicated by President Calvin Coolidge before a crowd of 150,000 people.

In the decades since, veterans of the Great War and their families have come to this site to honor and remember those who fought. More recently, their experience has been enhanced with the expansion of the WWI Museum. In 2006, after a \$105 million renovation, the WWI Museum reopened its newly renovated 32,000 square feet of exhibitions that nobly honor the heroes of WWI. At the updated museum, visitors can view films dedicated to the War in a state of the art theater; follow US involvement in the war from the United States' entry in 1917 to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919; and read real accounts of those connected to the war. Over 1 million people have visited the site since the reopening in 2006.

On October 24, 2000 the Liberty Memorial was recognized by Congress as a “national World War I symbol honoring those who defended liberty and our country through service in World War I”. And in 2004, Congress designated the museum at the Liberty Memorial the National World War I Museum. Given this national recognition it is only befitting that the Liberty Memorial be finally and rightfully recognized as the nation's National World War I Memorial.

This legislation has received substantial support. The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the family of Sgt. Alvin C. York, the most decorated U.S. World War I soldier, have all written letters supporting the designation of the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Memorial. Each of these letters are attached to my testimony. Also attached to my testimony is a photo which helps to illustrate the grandeur and magnificence of the Liberty Memorial and its presence in the city. There is truly nothing like it.

I am aware that others are seeking to establish the District of Columbia World War I Monument, which resides on the National Mall here in Washington, D.C., as a National World War I Monument. I am saddened by the disrepair of the D.C. Monument and the general lack of care it has received over many years. I believe

*See Appendix.

this must be addressed and remedied as soon as possible and I applaud those who have taken up this cause. However, I do not believe that a monument's presence on the National Mall alone should entitle it to the moniker of a National monument. Nor should a monument's presence elsewhere be exclusionary. Other considerations should also include the scope, history and care of a Monument, as well as the general manner in which the Monument is perceived by our citizens. With these types of considerations, it is clear that the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City is our nation's National World War I Monument. I firmly believe we should assign it that moniker as we approach the 100th Anniversary of World War I. I look forward to working with my friends supporting the D.C. Monument and to seeking a solution that wins that monument revitalization and appropriate recognition associated with its location while also recognizing the national nature of the Liberty Memorial.

Again, I want to thank Chairman Udall and Ranking Member Burr for holding this hearing. As you can tell from my testimony am so proud to be the lead sponsor of this legislation and even prouder of the citizens of Kansas City.

Senator UDALL. We also have letters from the National Coalition To Save Our Mall opposing H.R. 3689, the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center bill, and one from the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department in support of the same bill.

We have a statement from District of Columbia shadow Senator Paul Strauss, opposing S. 2097, the DC World War I Memorial bill.

All these letters and statements will be included in the hearing record.

With that, let me turn to Ms. Stevenson, who is the assistant director of business services, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Ms. Stevenson, nice to see you. It isn't your first visit to the subcommittee.

Ms. STEVENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator UDALL. The floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PETER MAY, ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR LANDS, RESOURCES, AND PLANNING, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Ms. STEVENSON. Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to offer the views of the Department of the Interior on the eight bills before you.

I'll summarize my remarks and ask that the full text be entered into the record.

With me today is Peter May, the Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources, and Planning with the National Capital Region, in case you have any detailed questions about the projects on the Mall.

S. 760 would designate the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial. A companion bill, H.R. 1849, would also establish the World War I Centennial Commission. The Department supports the intent of establishing such a commission, but believes it is premature to designate the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Museum until a study of the various World War I memorials in the United States has been completed. That study would determine which memorial is best suited to be named the official National World War I Memorial. Such a study would be timely, as S. 2097, before you today, also proposes designation of the DC World War I Memorial as a National World War I Memorial. In 2008, the Congress directed the

National Park Service to study the Soldier Memorial Military Museum in Saint Louis, also a World War I Memorial, as a potential addition to the National Park System.

S. 1838 would establish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission to ensure that there's a suitable national observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The Department supports enactment, with some minor amendments.

S. 2097 would rededicate and enhance the DC War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I memorial. The Department cannot support S. 2097, both for the reasons I explained regarding other World War I Memorial candidates, and because the sculptural or commemorative elements proposed would so alter the existing memorial in purpose and design that the result would be, in effect, the creation of a new memorial within the reserve. Our position is supported by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission and by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

S. 2722 would authorize the Secretary to conduct a study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to add Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a unit of the National Park Service. The Department supports this bill. However, we feel that priority should be given to the 49 previously authorized studies.

S. 2726 would modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota by transferring 25 acres of Buffalo Gap National Grassland from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service for use as a visitor facility and administrative site. The Department supports this bill, with some technical amendments.

S. 2738 would authorize the National Mall Liberty Fund DC to establish a memorial in DC on Federal land to honor free persons and slaves who fought during the American Revolution. The Department supports the bill if it is amended to conform to the principles, purposes, and requirements of the Commemorative Works Act. While S. 2738 states that the memorial shall be established in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, the bill contravenes a critical requirement of that Act by preselecting Area 1 as the site. You will recall that the Commemorative Works Act was amended in 2003 to provide for the establishment of a reserve where no additional memorials may be located.

Finally, H.R. 3689 would extend by 4 years the authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Incorporated, to establish a visitor center. The Department supports that bill.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared testimony. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

[The prepared statements of Ms. Stevenson follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PETER MAY, ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR LANDS, RESOURCES, AND PLANNING, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

S. 760 AND H.R. 1849

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 760 and H.R. 1849, bills to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial. H.R. 1849 also establishes

the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I.

The Administration appreciates the sponsors' recognition of the sacrifices of Americans who served in World War I. This is an important era in American history which has been honored through a number of monuments throughout the nation. The Administration shares the sponsors' sentiment on this subject and would like to continue working with the Congress on it.

We believe however, that it is premature to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial. There has not been any study authorized or conducted to determine which of the various World War I Memorials in the United States would be best suited to be named as the single or official National World War I Memorial. The Department of the Interior supports the intent of establishing a World War I Centennial Commission; however, the Department of Justice has advised that it has constitutional concerns about certain appointment provisions in the bill and we understand Justice is providing its recommended amendments to the Committee to resolve these concerns. The Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Government Ethics would also welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to address matters related to the status of the Commission's members and employees for purposes of various laws governing Federal employment. We defer to those agencies for the specifics of their concerns..

Both S. 760 and H.R. 1849 as passed by the House would designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial. H.R. 1849 also would establish the World War I Centennial Commission to plan and execute various activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I, encouraging private organizations and other governmental entities to participate in the centennial, and coordinate these activities throughout the United States. The Commission would consist of 21 members appointed by the President and certain members of Congress and would also include the executive director of the American Legion and the president of the Liberty Memorial Association. The bill authorizes \$500,000 for fiscal years 2010 through 2019 to carry out the activities of the commission. The Administrator of General Services would provide the administrative support services to the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, our Department would be pleased to work with the Commission if it is established. This concludes my testimony. I will be pleased to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

S. 1838

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1838, a bill that would establish a commission to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

The Department supports the enactment of this legislation subject to addressing some minor amendments discussed in our testimony and the concerns of the Department of Justice, which has advised that it may have constitutional concerns about an appointment provision in the bill and will provide its recommended amendments, if any, at a later date to address these concerns. The Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Government Ethics also welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to address matters related to the status of the Commission's members and employees for purposes of various laws governing Federal employment. We defer to those agencies for the specifics of their concerns.

S. 1838 would establish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission to cooperate with and assist States and national organizations with programs and activities to ensure a suitable national observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. It also authorizes a grant program for the development of programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War that have lasting educational value.

The Civil War was, in the words of Robert Penn Warren, "the great single event of our history." It was the both the greatest disaster that has ever befallen our nation, and also our era of greatest achievement. It was a wrenching conflict that resulted in the loss of 620,000 lives, the liberation of four million African American slaves, and the ratification of three Constitutional amendments that forever changed the face of American democracy. S. 1838 is mindful of this reality as it directs the Commission to recognize "the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War," and provides for the development of "programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War that have lasting educational value."

As S. 1838 acknowledges, the military aspects of the Civil War are important events to commemorate. It is equally important, however, as we prepare to reflect

on the war from the vantage point of a-century-and-a-half later, that we explore the causes of the conflict to understand better why the democratic framework of the country failed to resolve the sectional issues short of war. Likewise, we would be doing a disservice to those who fought and fell, if the Sesquicentennial did not fully examine and reflect upon the consequences of the Civil War including not only the Reconstruction era and its aftermath, but also the subsequent constriction of equal rights for African American citizens, and the ultimate achievement of those civil rights for the descendants of enslaved peoples almost a century later.

As the country approaches the 150th anniversary of the war, the meaning of the Civil War should be explored fully. Its causes and consequences, subjects which Congress directed the National Park Service to address in its programs and materials beginning in 1999, can and must be a major part of the Sesquicentennial. The Sesquicentennial should assume the broadest possible approach to remembering and commemorating the war. With that in mind, and subject to the concerns of the other federal agencies referenced above, the Department would recommend the following suggestions for strengthening S. 1838 and making its implementation more efficient and effective.

First, the findings mention specific organizations and places important to the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It is important to remember that the Civil War was a national experience and its Sesquicentennial commemoration should likewise represent a broad spectrum of the nation. For example, the Virginia Center for Digital History (University of Virginia) with its The Valley of the Shadow project could contribute much to our understanding of the war. Other entities that might logically be considered would include the Center for Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. We recommend that other scholarly centers and programs be acknowledged so that the social, political, and economic aspects of the war receive emphasis.

Second, respecting the importance of the appointments to this nationally important commission, we recommend that the bill allow for 180 days instead of 60 days for the selection of the commission members.

Third, the bill envisions a commission that would include twenty-seven members. We believe a commission of this size would significantly impede the timely selection of its members, diminish its ability to work efficiently and effectively, and would be too costly. We recommend a smaller commission, with perhaps fifteen or seventeen members. We would be glad to work with the committee on language for these proposed amendments.

Establishing a commission, subject to modifications as discussed above, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War as envisioned in S. 1838 would provide the nation an opportunity to reflect upon this momentous event within an environment that would be inclusive and contemplative. The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service stand ready to contribute its resources and expertise to this important commemoration. It would enable all Americans to reflect anew upon the war, its consequences, and its lasting legacies. It would result, we can hope, in greater public insight into the war and promote increased awareness of its remarkable influence upon our society today.

This concludes my prepared testimony, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the committee might have.

S. 2097

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2097, to authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I.

The Administration appreciates the sponsors' recognition of the sacrifices of Americans who served in World War I. This is an important era in American history which has been honored through a number of monuments throughout the nation. The Administration shares the sponsors' sentiment on this subject and would like to continue working with the Congress on it.

However, we feel that it would be premature to designate the District of Columbia War Memorial (Memorial) as the National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial. There has not been any study authorized or conducted to determine which of the various World War I Memorials in the United States would be best suited to be named as the single or official National World War I Memorial. Further, the bill undermines several significant provisions of the Commemorative Works Act. Therefore, the Department cannot support S. 2097.

S. 2097 would authorize the World War I Memorial Foundation (Foundation) to establish a commemorative work rededicating the existing District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial by restoring the Memorial and adding an appropriate sculptural or other commemorative element.

The District of Columbia War Memorial was authorized by Congress on June 7, 1924, to commemorate the citizens of the District of Columbia who served in World War I. The Memorial was funded by both organizations and citizens of the District of Columbia. Construction of the Memorial began in the spring of 1931 and was dedicated by President Herbert Hoover on November 11, 1931. It was the first war memorial to be erected in West Potomac Park and remains the only local District memorial on the National Mall. The Memorial is a contributing structure in East and West Potomac Parks entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

Designed by Washington architect Frederick H. Brooke, with Horace W. Peaslee and Nathan C. Wyeth as associate architects, inscribed on the base of the Memorial are the names of the 499 District of Columbia citizens who lost their lives in the war. The Memorial was designed to be used as a bandstand and is large enough to hold an 80-member band. Concerts were held there until May 1, 1960. Today's visitors are likely those who are there for its peaceful and contemplative setting.

The Department concurs with the findings of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) that adding a National World War I Memorial near the District of Columbia War Memorial would allow a new memorial into the Reserve as well as encroach upon the existing Memorial, either of which would be violations of the Commemorative Works Act. Moreover, the sculptural or commemorative elements that S. 2097 proposes would so alter the existing District of Columbia War Memorial—in both its purpose and design—that the result would be, in effect, the creation of a new memorial.

This legislation exempts this proposal from key provisions which are at the heart of the Commemorative Works Act. Section 8908 of the Act precludes the addition of new memorials in the Reserve, the great cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial. Section 8905 of the Act requires the site and design for a new memorial be developed in a public process, first obtaining the advice of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, and then obtaining approvals by the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Veterans of World War I are honored at the General John J. Pershing Park, which is a national World War I Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue. Pershing Park, located in the center of Pennsylvania Avenue, between 14th and 15th Streets, was built by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation and includes a statue of General Pershing, as well as artwork detailing the major battles in World War I that involved U.S. troops. This commemorative work represents all who served in that conflict. Quotations on this existing World War I Veterans Memorial include General Pershing's tribute to the officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I and a commemoration of those who served in the United States Navy in World War I. Veterans of World War I are also honored on the Mall near the White House by the 1st Division and 2nd Division Memorials.

The Department appreciates the interest in improving the conditions at the District of Columbia War Memorial. While, as with other memorials, this memorial receives routine maintenance, the National Park Service has recognized it needs comprehensive attention. Open mortar joints and failed metal flashings have allowed water infiltration into the brick, terra cotta tile, and marble. Marble displacement, spalling, and cracking have also occurred.

The character of the Memorial's grounds has also changed. The Memorial grove is now a mix of hardwoods, evergreens, understory plantings, and non-native plants, altering the intended character of the open grove. The bluestone paving is severely deteriorated and broken from vehicular use.

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, \$7.3 million has been set aside for an extensive three-stage project to restore and rehabilitate the Memorial and grounds. First, stone conservators are conducting tests to determine the best methods for cleaning and removing general and biological soiling, stains, and old paint to restore the Memorial to an appearance consistent with the structure's age and material character. Corrections to the built-in gutter and drainage systems will also be made to help eliminate moisture infiltration and the associated staining and spalling.

Second, the project will restore the original planting plan, re-establishing the 50-foot open lawn around the Memorial, set within a grove of trees.

Third, the current deteriorated condition of the surrounding stone plaza and walkways will be rehabilitated with thicker, more durable stone paving and the walkways widened from eight feet to ten feet to address contemporary use.

The National Park Service received approval for this restoration and rehabilitation project from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts on September 17, 2009, and from the National Capital Planning Commission on September 24, 2009. Final design, as well as final approvals from both Commissions, is expected to be complete this spring, with the rehabilitation expected to be complete by September 30, 2012.

As the District of Columbia World War I Memorial is dedicated to, and was built with funds from the citizens of the District of Columbia, any modification to rededicate it and turn this local memorial into a national memorial would run counter to the letter and spirit of its original authorization and to the intent of the Commemorative Works Act. Rather than making exceptions to the Commemorative Works Act and setting this precedent—superimposing a new memorial over an existing one, the Department believes that greater recognition could be given to studying opportunities to improve upon the national World War I Memorial in Pershing Park, in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. The Department believes that the memorial in Pershing Park could be given an even greater national stature, without impinging on the Commemorative Works Act.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.

S. 2722

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2722, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in the State of Wyoming, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Department supports S. 2722. However, we feel that priority should be given to the 49 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 2722 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a unit of the National Park System. The study would also consider other alternatives for the preservation, protection and interpretation of the site by federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations. The bill also directs the Secretary to identify any potential impacts to private landowners if the site is designated as a unit of the National Park System and specifies that the Secretary, through the study process, shall consult with interested federal, State, or local governmental entities, federally recognized Indian tribes, private and nonprofit organizations, and owners of private property that may be affected by any designation. Not later than three years after funds are made available, the Secretary is directed to submit the results and recommendations of the study to Congress. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$240,000.

Located in northwest Wyoming, in the Shoshone River Valley, the Heart Mountain Relocation Center is one of 10 relocation centers established by the U.S. military to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II. The Center opened on August 11, 1942, and operated for 39 months, closing on November 10, 1945. At its peak, Heart Mountain contained 10,767 Japanese Americans, nearly all of whom were former residents of California, Oregon, and Washington, and two-thirds of whom were United States citizens.

The site tells the story of a group of American citizens whose constitutional rights were abrogated during a time when our nation was at war. Heart Mountain is also directly associated with one of the largest single draft resistance movements in United States history. To protest the confinement of their families, 315 Japanese Americans from all 10 relocation centers were imprisoned for resisting induction into the military. Heart Mountain had the highest rate of resistance with 85 men imprisoned for their resistance to the draft.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center originally encompassed 21,521 acres. However, the center's core developed area, which included the residential and administrative areas, contained approximately 740 acres.

Jointly managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, the current Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark contains 124 acres with the remaining parts of the area privately owned. The Bureau of Rec-

lamation owns and administers 74 acres, which includes the site of the original hospital complex and a portion of the administrative complex. The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation owns 50 acres, which includes the relocation center's military police compound. The Foundation is currently engaged in a significant fundraising campaign to construct an 11,000 square foot Interpretive Learning Center at the site. To date, nearly one-half of the needed funds have been raised.

Although, as a nation, we are not proud of what happened at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center and the other nine detention sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, such sites allow us to learn from our history and remind us of how far we have come. The designation of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a National Historic Landmark has brought increased public recognition and awareness of the site. However, this designation does not guarantee additional safeguards or protection of the site. The special resource study process would allow all interested parties to comment on ways to preserve and allow for visitor enjoyment of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.

S. 2726

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2726, a bill to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota.

The Department supports S. 2726 with some technical amendments included at the end of this statement.

S. 2726 would authorize the Secretary to transfer 25 acres of Buffalo Gap National Grasslands from the U.S. Forest Service to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in Philip, South Dakota, to establish a visitor facility and administrative site. The new facility would be located north of exit 131 on Interstate 90 in Jackson County, South Dakota. Minuteman Missile's enabling legislation states, "On a determination by the Secretary of the appropriate location for a visitor facility and administrative site, the boundary of the historic site shall be modified to include the selected site." The enabling legislation also included a map of the visitor center site indicating that the proposed area would be 10 acres in size. Later planning indicated that a minimum size for the visitor center site would require 25 acres. National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service personnel, in consultation with our respective lawyers, have discussed that in view of the increase in acreage, it would be appropriate to provide for that increase in new legislation. There would be no cost involved in this land transfer.

The U.S. Forest Service (Buffalo Gap National Grassland) is in agreement with the recommended land transfer and has provided Minuteman Missile NHS with an outline of the land transfer process. The National Park Service's Midwest regional architects and engineers conducted an on-site visit in March 2009 with the Minuteman Missile NHS staff to determine the number of acres necessary for the land transfer. The National Grassland representatives met with representatives from the National Park Service to discuss the proposed land involved in the transfer and the U.S. Forest Service has agreed to the transfer of 25 acres. We note that the U.S. Forest Service also has identified the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 as another possible vehicle for this transfer.

Public Law 106-115 established the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) scoping began in 2001 and the record of decision was signed on July 2, 2009. The GMP's preferred alternative included the development of a visitor center/administrative facility and a land transfer from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service for the site of the facility. The GMP recommended the preferred location at I-90 South Dakota Exit 131 with "up to" 25 acres for the complete facility.

The estimated cost to build the visitor center and administrative site is \$4.7 million, and the estimated cost to annual operate and maintain both facilities would be approximately \$750,000. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The transfer between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service would be conducted in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I look forward to working with the Committee on these amendments and other technical issues. I am prepared to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

Proposed amendments to S. 2726, the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act

Page 2, line 2, by striking “ respectively; and ” and inserting “respectively;”

Page 2, line 6, by inserting “also” after “ historic site ”.

Page 2, line 18, by striking “ 2009 ’ . ” and inserting “ 2009 ’ ; and ”

Page 2, after line 18, by inserting

“ (3) in section (3)(a)(3), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking “ (4) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in paragraph (2)” and inserting “ (4) AVAILABILITY OF MAPS.—The maps described in paragraphs (2) and (3) ”

—(4) in section (3)(e)(1), by striking “Except as provided in paragraph (2)” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)”.

—(5) in section (3)(e), by adding a new paragraph (3) as follows:

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over the lands described in paragraph 3(a)(3) to the Secretary, and shall modify the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland to exclude the transferred lands from the grassland boundaries. As soon as practicable after the transfer, the Secretary shall prepare a map and a legal description of the lands described herein, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

S. 2738

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. 2738, a bill to authorize the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution.

The Department supports S. 2738 if amended to conform to the principles, processes, and requirements set forth in the Commemorative Works Act, which has successfully guided the process for establishing monuments in the Nation’s Capital since it was enacted in 1986 and as amended since that time. We also recommend that one technical correction be made to a map reference in the bill.

The bill would authorize the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to recognize and commemorate the contributions of 5,000 African Americans who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolutionary War. The bill prohibits the use of federal funds to establish the memorial, directs that the memorial be established according to the Commemorative Works Act, and repeals two laws for the authorization and site selection of a similar memorial proposal that expired.

In 1986, Congress enacted the Commemorative Works Act to guide the process for establishing memorials in the Nation’s Capital. Since its enactment, the Act has played an important role in ensuring that memorials in the Nation’s Capital are erected on the most appropriate sites and are of a caliber of design that is worthy of their historically significant subjects. The Act was amended in 2003 to, among other things, provide for establishment of a Reserve where no additional memorials may be located.

While S. 2738 states that the memorial shall be established in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, the bill contravenes a critical requirement of the Commemorative Works Act by pre-selecting Area I as the site for this memorial.

Area I is located within the Monumental Core of the Nation’s Capital extending around the Capitol Reflecting Pool to the eastern boundary of Arlington National Cemetery and along the Virginia shoreline. Area I excludes the Reserve, the great cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial. Congress, in the Commemorative Works Act, reserved Area I for subjects determined to be of preeminent and lasting historic significance to the Nation and it established a process for making this determination which has worked well for over 20 years. Through this process, a new memorial may be located in Area I only if the Secretary determines, after consulting with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, which holds public meetings, that the memorial’s subject warrants location in Area I and recommends it to Congress. If Congress agrees with the recommendation, it enacts a law within 150 days approving the location. As currently written, S. 2738 bypasses this important process.

Following the Commemorative Works Act, in the Department’s view, would not hinder the Liberty Memorial Foundation in its ability to establish this memorial. In fact, if it obtains an Area I designation through this process, it would be granted

an additional seven years to complete the memorial, for a total of 14 years. This change was made by Congress when it amended the Commemorative Works Act in 2003, and as a result sponsors no longer need to fear that seeking an Area I designation might cost them their authority to establish the memorial at all.

We also would note out that S. 2738 makes no provisions for the disposition of monies raised in excess of funds needed for the establishment of the memorial or to hold in reserve the amount available should the authority to establish the memorial expire before completion. The Department recommends that the bill be amended to clarify the disposition of these funds.

The Department also notes that the bill references the 1986 map, which Congress amended in 2003 when it changed the boundaries of Area I and created the Reserve. The 1986 map is no longer valid. We recommend that the bill be amended to reference the revised map, numbered 869/86501B and dated June 24, 2003.

The Department reiterates our support of the establishment of a memorial in the Nation's Capital that recognizes and commemorates the contributions of African Americans who fought for independence, liberty and justice during the Revolutionary War. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the subcommittee to develop language that would provide for such authorization in a manner consistent with the principles, processes, and requirements set forth by existing authorities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my prepared testimony, I would be glad to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

H.R. 3689

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3689, a bill to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (the Fund) to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 3689 as passed by the House.

The visitor center was authorized by Public Law 108-126, signed on November 17, 2003. Following site analysis and the completion of an environmental assessment, the visitor center was approved to be located on the NPS proposed site on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial, bounded by Constitution Avenue, Henry Bacon Drive, Lincoln Memorial Circle, and 23rd Street, N.W., so long as certain mitigation set forth in design standards developed jointly by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) are met. To protect the sensitive landscape of the site, which includes views to and from the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the design team is responding to these critical design standards and criteria. The criteria have been helpful to move this important commemorative work forward while minimizing potential impacts to the surrounding views and nearby memorials. In addition to public consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Commemorative Works Act requires an important series of reviews and approvals by NCPC and CFA. To meet the challenges associated with designing this project on such a sensitive and highly visible site, and the legislative requirement that it be located underground, the NPS and the Fund have made design refinements as needed during this process.

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made gaining approvals for the design. Furthermore, the NPS believes that the design will be fully approved in a timely fashion and that the visitor center can be completed and open to the public within the additional four years that H.R. 3689 would allow. Without the proposed extension, the Fund's current authority to establish this visitor center will expire on November 17, 2010.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to comment. This concludes my prepared remarks and I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members might have.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Ms. Stevenson.

I will recognize myself for a series of questions.

Your testimony states that the administration believes that the designation of a World War I memorial at this time is premature, since there hasn't been a study yet. Do you have an estimate as to how long it would take and what it would cost?

Ms. STEVENSON. We ordinarily testify that between \$200- and \$300,000 is required for such a study and that it takes approximately 3 years.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification.

As you know, the statue in Pershing Park is considered to be a World War I memorial. The cross in the Mohave National Preserve has been designated as a National Memorial commemorating World War I, as well. Do you think there should be a single official national World War I memorial, or whether it makes sense to have multiple recognized memorials?

Ms. STEVENSON. I believe we'll defer that answer to the Congress.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that opportunity.

[Laughter.]

Senator UDALL. My understanding is the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City is privately owned. Do you have any concerns with designating a private facility as a national memorial?

Ms. STEVENSON. That would depend on how the designation was written. We have other private buildings that are units in the National Park System, and agreements have been worked out.

Senator UDALL. You mentioned in your testimony that \$7.3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is available to restore the District of Columbia War Memorial. Do you know if these funds are sufficient to restore the memorial, or would additional funds be necessary?

Ms. STEVENSON. May I ask Mr. May to assist me with that question?

Senator UDALL. Of course.

Mr. May, join us at the witness table and—

Mr. MAY. Thank you very much—

Senator UDALL. Would you give your name and title, for the record, please.

Mr. MAY. Certainly.

Senator UDALL. Thank you.

Mr. MAY. Peter May, Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources, and Planning for the National Capital Region of the National Parks Service.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. May. You're recognized.

Mr. MAY. Thank you.

We do believe that we have sufficient funds to complete the restoration of the DC World War I Memorial.

Senator UDALL. Thank you.

Feel free to continue to sit at the witness table.

Ms. Stevenson, let me turn to World War I and Civil War Commissions. With respect to those two bills authorizing Federal commissions to commemorate the anniversaries of the Civil War and World War I, just to clarify for the record, the administration supports the creation of both commissions, but wants to modify the way in which commission members are appointed in order to avoid appointments cause—clause conflicts. Is that correct?

Ms. STEVENSON. That is as we understand it. The Justice Department is the one that has raised that objection. So, it will be they who deal with you all.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification.

Let me move to the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial. That is S. 2738, which would be a new authorization for the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial. You object to a provi-

sion in the bill which finds that the subject matter of the proposed memorial is of preeminent and lasting significance to the United States, as required under the Commemorative Works Act. Given that the Secretary of the Interior and Congress has already made that determination for the previously authorized memorial, and since the subject of the new memorial is identical to the previously authorized one, why does the Park Service believe it's a problem to acknowledge that significance in this legislation?

Ms. STEVENSON. Mr. May.

Senator UDALL. Mr. May, you're recognized.

Mr. MAY. Thank you.

On a certain level, this is a matter of principle in the execution of the Commemorative Works Act. We believe that the Congress very wisely set a specific process for establishing when something is worthy of being in Area 1. We'd like to see that confirmed at this point for this memorial.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification.

I have no further questions.

I know Senator Burr, because of the busy nature of this week, and this day in particular, has been unable to join us immediately. He may well have questions for you, and I know you'll be willing to—

Ms. STEVENSON. I'd be delighted to answer—

Senator UDALL [continuing]. Answer those questions.

Thank you for taking the time to—

Ms. STEVENSON. Thank you, Senator.

Senator UDALL [continuing]. Come up to the Hill. We will see you again soon, I'm sure.

Ms. STEVENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator UDALL. As Ms. Stevenson, Mr. May depart, I'd ask the next panel to take your seats at the table, and we'll turn to your testimony.

[Pause.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you. Good afternoon, to you panel members that have joined us.

I'd like to turn to your testimony with dispatch. So, what I'll do is introduce each of you in turn, and I'll start with Mr. Alexander, who's on my left, and on the right of those of you sitting at the table. Mr. Brian Alexander is president, CEO of the National World War I Museum, Kansas City, Missouri.

Sir, the floor is yours. We'd ask you to keep your testimony within a 5-minute timeframe, give or take, and would make that same request of all those who are going to testify.

Welcome, and I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

**STATEMENT OF BRIAN ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT & CEO,
NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM, KANSAS CITY, MO**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Chairman Udall, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the National World War I Museum on H.R. 1849 and S. 70, to designate the Liberty Memorial as a National World War I Memorial and to establish a World War I Centennial Commission.

Shortly after the 1918 armistice, citizens in the heart of our Nation raised money to build a memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, to

honor the 4 million American men and women who served during the first World War. In 2 weeks, they raised over \$2 million, roughly the equivalent of \$30 million today. The 1921 Site dedication in Kansas City was attended by the military commanders of the five allied nations—France, Italy, Great Britain, Belgium, and the United States, represented by General John J. Pershing of Missouri. It was at the Liberty Memorial that these five leaders met together for the first time.

The Liberty Memorial opened on November 11, 1926. During the dedication, President Calvin Coolidge addressed the more than 100,000 attendees, saying, “Erected in memory of those who defended their homes and their freedom in the World War, it stands for service and all that service implies. Today, I return in order that I may place the official sanction of the national government upon one of the most elaborate impressive memorials that adorn our country.” Today, we’re here to request that you formalize President Coolidge’s sanction by the national government.

For 8 decades, all American veterans from the Great War have been honored by the words carved on the base of the 217-foot-tall Liberty Memorial tower, “In honor of those who served in the World War in defense of liberty and our country.”

In 1961, former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, both World War I veterans, joined together to rededicate the Liberty Memorial, further recognizing it as the national memorial.

H.R. 760 also establishes a Centennial Commission to oversee the 100th anniversary of World War I. While the matter is not directly before this committee, the National World War I Museum is strongly supportive of this legislation that will properly coordinate the national program to commemorate the great sacrifices of those who served.

Through the years, more than 60,000 historical objects from the war have been donated to the Liberty Memorial from around the world, resulting in the most comprehensive collection of World War I materials in our country.

Our efforts were greatly enhanced with the massive expansion of a new museum built directly beneath the Liberty Memorial. In 2004, the 108th Congress enacted legislation designating the museum as the National World War I Museum. The new state-of-the-art museum opened its doors to critical acclaim in 2006. That same year, the Liberty Memorial was also designated by the Department of Interior as a National Historic Landmark.

Since the 2006 grand opening, more than a million guests have visited the 80,000-square-foot complex and 47-acre grounds, including more than 55,000 school students.

For 83 years, the Liberty Memorial has honored all those who served this country in the war. Since then, American soldiers, on their way to subsequent conflicts, have visited the memorial to honor those who came before them. As an example, General David Petraeus toured the museum shortly before his deployment to Iraq. Other dignitaries have acknowledged the importance of the memorial and museum through their visits, including, among others, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and then-Senator Barack Obama.

On Veterans Day 2009, the son and grandson of Sergeant Alvin York, the most decorated American World War I “doughboy,” were special guests of the museum and memorial. We are proud that the York family has endorsed our legislative efforts and that members of the York family are here today.

We are also proud to have two national member-based organizations representing nearly 5 million veterans endorse our efforts for national memorial designation and the creation of a Centennial Commission. I have with me a resolution that was passed unanimously by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as a letter of support from the American Legion and its members. We are grateful that both organizations are represented here today.

We are not asking that ongoing operational funding be tied to this designation. Our request is simply to recognize the Liberty Memorial as the Nation’s official World War I memorial, fulfilling President Coolidge’s pronouncement in 1926.

In conclusion, since the end of the war, the American people established hundreds of memorials throughout our Nation to honor their countrymen who served. Right here in the District of Columbia, one can find several memorials dedicated to soldiers from this area. We support the renovation of these and other memorials. However, the Liberty Memorial stands apart from all other efforts, in size, in scale, and in its ongoing commitment in interpreting and honoring all veterans from the first World War.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement, and I’m happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Alexander follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BRIAN ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL, KANSAS CITY, MO, ON S. 760 AND H.R. 1849

Chairman Udall, Ranking Member Burr and other members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the National World War I Museum on H.R. 1849 and S.760 to designate the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial and to establish a World War I Centennial Commission.

The events of 1914 through 1918 profoundly shaped world history and forever changed America’s role on the world stage. Shortly after the 1918 Armistice, citizens in the heart of our nation raised money to build a memorial in Kansas City, Missouri to honor the four million American men and women who served during the First World War.

In two weeks they raised over two million dollars—the equivalent of more than 26 million dollars today. Following this successful fundraising drive, a national architectural competition for a monument design was held.

The 1921 site dedication in Kansas City was attended by the military commanders of the five Allied nations—France, Italy, Great Britain, Belgium and the United States, represented by General John J. Pershing of Missouri. It was at the Liberty Memorial that these five leaders met together for the first time.

The Liberty Memorial opened on November 11, 1926. During the dedication, President Calvin Coolidge addressed the more than 100,000 attendees, saying:

It is with a mingling of sentiments that we come to dedicate this memorial. Erected in memory of those who defended their homes and their freedom in the World War, it stands for service and all that service implies. Today I return . . . in order that I may place the official sanction of the national government upon one of the most elaborate and impressive memorials that adorn our country.

Today we are here to request that you formalize President Coolidge’s official sanction of the national government. For eight decades all American veterans from the Great War have been honored by the words carved on the limestone base of the 217-

foot tall Liberty Memorial Tower—"In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country."

In 1961 former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, both World War I veterans, joined together to rededicate the Liberty Memorial—further recognizing it as the national memorial.

H.R. 760 also establishes a Centennial Commission to prepare for and oversee the 100th anniversary of World War I. While this matter is not directly before this committee, the National World War I Museum is strongly supportive of this legislation that will properly coordinate a national program to commemorate the great sacrifices of those who served by making available the vast resources of the Museum.

Through the years, more than 60,000 historical objects from the war have been donated to the Liberty Memorial from around the world—resulting in the most comprehensive collection of World War I materials in our country.

Our ability to share the stories and honor those who served in the First World War was greatly enhanced with the massive expansion of a new museum built directly beneath the Liberty Memorial. In 2004 the 108th Congress enacted legislation designating the museum as the National World War I Museum. The new state-of-the-art Museum opened its doors to critical acclaim in 2006. That same year, the Liberty Memorial was also designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark.

Since the 2006 grand opening, more than a million guests have visited the museum and its historic grounds including more than 55,000 students on school sponsored field trips.

For 83 years, the Liberty Memorial has honored all those who served this country in the First World War. Since then, American soldiers on their way to subsequent conflicts have visited the memorial to honor those who came before them. As an example, General David Petraeus toured the Museum shortly before his deployment to Iraq.

Other dignitaries have acknowledged the importance of the Memorial and Museum through their visits including Vice President Dick Cheney, former Secretary of State General Colin Powell and then Senator Barack Obama.

On Veterans Day 2009, the son and grandson of Sergeant Alvin York, the most decorated American World War I doughboy, were special guests of the Museum and Memorial. We are proud that the York family has endorsed our legislative efforts, and that members of the York family are here today. As the Centennial approaches and world attention focuses on this event, other family descendants, historians and organizations throughout the world are turning to us to help in their remembrance.

We are proud to have two national member-based organizations, representing nearly five million veterans, endorse our efforts for National Memorial designation and the creation of a Centennial Commission. I have with me a resolution to this effect that was passed unanimously at the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention, as well as a letter of support from the American Legion and its members, who also formally endorsed our proposed legislation.* We are grateful that both organizations are represented here today.

I ask unanimous consent that these letters and the letter from the York family be included in their entirety along with my full statement.

We are not asking that ongoing operational funding be tied to the designation as national memorial. Our request is to simply recognize the Liberty Memorial as the nation's official World War I Memorial—fulfilling President Coolidge's pronouncement in 1926.

In conclusion, since the guns fell silent on November 11, 1918, the American people established hundreds of memorials throughout our nation to honor their countrymen who served in the Great War. Right here in the District of Columbia one can find several memorials dedicated to soldiers from this area. However, the Liberty Memorial stands apart from all other efforts—in size, in scale and in our ongoing commitment in honoring and interpreting this event.

For more than 80 years, the Liberty Memorial has served as the de facto national memorial. The grandeur of the Liberty Memorial combined with nearly a century of honoring ALL United States veterans from the First World War positions the Memorial uniquely as the national symbol for World War I.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

*Documents have been retained in subcommittee files.

ATTACHMENT.—ADDITIONAL COMMENT

NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL FUNDING STRUCTURE

The 2009 operating budget for the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is \$2,802,250. The Museum is able to fulfill its mission through various revenue streams which include earned income, a city subsidy and philanthropic contributions.

EARNED INCOME (ADMISSION)

An admission fee is charged to each guest which allows access to the view the galleries and to ride the Tower elevator. As the largest revenue generator for the Museum, the admission revenue equals 32% of the Museum's budget. Guests ages 12 to 64 pay \$10 to see the National World War I Museum and the view from the top of the Tower. The Museum does not charge admission for active duty military or career retired military.

It is important to understand that the Museum does not charge a fee to view the Liberty Memorial. Visitors can view the 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower, the Guardian Spirits, and symbolic sphinxes for free daily from dawn to dusk. Tens of thousands of guests visit the Memorial grounds annually without paying an admission fee.

EARNED INCOME (OTHER)

Earned income from other sources, which makes up another 27% of the Museum's revenue, includes Museum Store sales; Over There Café sales; Walk of Honor brick sales; and rental events.

The Museum Store features a selection of WWI treasures ranging from vintage t-shirts to military collectibles. The goal of the Museum Store is to inform, educate and extend the visitor's experience by offering quality products and excellent service.

At the Over There Café, guests dine surrounded by WWI-themed décor featuring the flags of the Allied and Central Powers, a poppy field mural and music of the era.

The Walk of Honor currently has more than 7,500 bricks bought to recognize individuals and organizations. The Walk of Honor is divided into three sections. 1) a section dedicated solely to those who served in World War I, 2) a section for veterans of any military service and 3) a section to honor civilian friends, family or organizations.

Each year, more than 200 private events are held on Museum grounds. Revenue is earned from both facility rentals and catering fees.

CITY FUNDING

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial and surrounding 47 acres are owned by the City of Kansas City. The Museum is managed by the non-profit Liberty Memorial Association through a long-term contract with the City of Kansas City. In 2009, the Museum received \$625,000 from the City of Kansas City as part of a contractual subsidy and maintenance endowment, which equals 22% of the Museum's revenue.*

PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Philanthropic gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations currently make up 17.5% of the Museum's budget. Revenue in this area comes from individual gifts, memberships, grants, sponsorships, planned gifts and commemorative gifts.

The Museum successfully completed a We the People challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2009. This prestigious grant establishes two important endowments. The Education Endowment will support programming that strengthens and improves the visitor's understanding of World War I history and the Acquisitions Endowment will fund the purchase of significant World War I artifacts. Under the terms of the grant, the National World War I Museum raised \$1.5 million with matching money of \$500,000. Both the Education Endowment and the Acquisitions Endowment are restricted funds which can only be used to support their respective missions.

Other major grants have been awarded to the Museum by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Save America's Treasures, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Graphic has been retained in subcommittee files.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Alexander, for that testimony.

I, too, want to offer my welcome to the York family. I think every American is familiar with that phenomenal story from World War I. So, welcome to your Nation's capital, to the York family.

We've been joined by Mr. Maurice A. Barboza, who's the founder and CEO of the National Mall Liberty Fund DC, based here in Washington, DC.

Mr. Barboza, welcome, and the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF MAURICE A. BARBOZA, FOUNDER & CEO,
NATIONAL MALL LIBERTY FUND D.C.**

Mr. BARBOZA. Thank you very much, Chairman Udall and members of—

Senator UDALL. If you'll turn your mic on. I didn't set a very good example, starting this panel, but—

Mr. BARBOZA. Thank you.

Thank you for inviting me to testify on the National Liberty Memorial Act. We commend the sponsors, Senator Chris Dodd and Senator Charles Grassley, for 25 years of fidelity to the project.

I'm the founder and CEO of the organization. Our purpose is to create a memorial to the unique circumstances and aspirations of African American soldiers, sailors, patriots, and freedom-seekers of the American Revolutionary War. This is not a war memorial. These men and women strove to become "We the People," and to have children and grandchildren who were secure in their own skin and free to give of themselves to the Union.

What stirred the slave at sunrise, could instruct Americans today. In 1988, Congress approved, and President Reagan signed, a bill setting aside the land on the mall. The history was declared a preeminent historical and lasting significance. However, in 2005, 2 years after the moratorium was approved, the separate authorization of the sponsor expired and the site became unavailable. Although the memorial was not built, discoveries inspired by the exposure are meaningful and mounting. The long delay is revealing itself as a building block instead of a missed opportunity.

Emerson said, "Liberty is a slow fruit. It is made difficult because freedom is the perfection of man." Approval of this bill would reaffirm the worthiness of the history. The National Park Service and the new organization could then identify potential sites in Area 1, outside of the reserve.

The Sons of the American Revolution estimates that as many as 10,000 African Americans fought for independence, serving largely in integrated units. They were killed, captured, and wounded. Slaves and free persons volunteered, in hopes of winning liberty and citizenship. Afterward, they lived exemplary lives, nurturing families and liberty. Some founded churches and self-help groups; these eventually spawned the civil rights movement. Many were farmers and artisans, others become preachers and entrepreneurs. A few even voted. Tens of thousands of slaves were emboldened to run away or petition for liberty. Some bartered chains for muskets. These declarations of independence are footprinted on roads, backwoods, and newspaper ads seeking to apprehend them in their tracks.

Books and scholarship about their tenacity have blossomed since 1986. Records and the spirits abiding within them have been unshackled; they're free and discoverable. Last year, the names of over 5,000 were released. "Forgotten Patriots" contains proof of their military service, and clues to spouses and children. Asa Snelling, Henry Bakeman, and Sergeant Isaac Brown are among dozens of patriots reunited with their families. Absalom Martin, a North Carolina soldier is one of them. Any one of your States' citizens could be a descendant of the 10,000. Heirs to this legacy could number in the millions. Hundreds more will discover their inheritance over the next decade. The coming together of ancestor and descendant liberates both.

I've seen women organize commemorations to convey ancient recollections to the living. I have seen Black and white families honor common ancestors and ancestors who knew one another. I have seen it bring grown men to tears. In Connecticut, Venture Smith and his son, a Revolutionary War soldier, is celebrated annually by his family and community. Historians, anthropologists, and genealogists will gather tomorrow in Hartford for the Documenting Venture Smith Conference. Citizens of Montrose, Iowa, celebrate the life of Cato Mead, a Connecticut soldier who moved to Lee County and died there in 1846. Citizens of Savannah, Georgia, and Haiti built a monument to Haitian soldiers who fought there with General Pulaski in 1779. Oscar Marion was honored in the capital in 2007, near his portrait with General Marion.

The National Park Service has identified 103 Black soldiers at Bunker Hill and many others at other historic battles.

Next year, the Cato Freedom Project, at Hartwick College in New York, will announce the National Freedom Descendants Commission. Students are writing papers, searching for descendants, and traipsing through woodlands to discover graves and ancestral lands. The history is required reading in the grade schools of New Jersey. A traveling exhibit, "Oh, Freedom," commemorates the State's Black patriots.

A treasure map of the Nation's birth—cherished principles is being redrawn. Americans of all races and points of view are finding common identity, common values, and common purpose. The day is coming when the spell cast over history by slavery and Jim Crow is broken. No longer will that warp the way an American sees himself and colors see one another. Lincoln cautioned, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Imagine this future memorial as a lighthouse guiding us to where all citizens are bound beyond doubt as "We the People." In that aim is the preservation of liberty.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Barboza follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MAURICE A. BARBOZA, FOUNDER & CEO, LIBERTY FUND
D.C., ON S. 2738

Chairman Udall, Senator Burr and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify on S. 2738, the National Liberty Memorial Act. We commend the sponsors, Senator Chris Dodd and Senator Charles Grassley, for 25 years of fi-

delity. I am the founder and CEO of Liberty Fund D.C.¹ Our purpose is to create a memorial to the unique circumstances and aspirations of African American soldiers, sailors, patriots and freedom seekers of the Revolutionary War. Above all, these men and women strove to become “We the People” and to have children and grandchildren who are secure in their own skin and free to give of themselves to the union. What stirred the slave at sunrise could instruct Americans today.

In 1988, Congress approved, and President Reagan signed, a bill setting aside land on the Mall. Public Law 100-265, a prerequisite, declares the deeds of “pre-eminent historical and lasting significance.”² However, in 2005, two years after the moratorium was approved, the separate authorization of the sponsor expired and the site became unavailable.³ Although, the memorial was not built, discoveries inspired by the exposure are meaningful and mounting. The long delay is revealing itself as a building block, instead of a missed opportunity. Emerson said, “liberty is slow fruit. It is never cheap. It is made difficult because freedom is the accomplishment and perfection of man.” Approval of S. 2738 would reaffirm the worthiness of the history. The National Park Service and the new organization could then identify potential sites in Area I—outside of the Reserve.

The Sons of the American Revolution estimates that as many as 10,000 African Americans fought for Independence. Serving largely in integrated units, they were killed, captured and wounded, from 1775 to 1783. Slaves and free persons volunteered in the hope of winning liberty and citizenship. Afterward, they lived exemplary lives, nurturing families and the tree of liberty. Some founded churches and self-help groups. These eventually spawned the Civil Rights Movement. Many were farmers and artisans; others became preachers and entrepreneurs. A few even voted. Tens of thousands of slaves were emboldened to run away or petition for liberty. Some bartered chains for muskets. These declarations of independence are foot-printed on roads, backwoods and newspaper ads seeking to apprehend them in their tracks.

Books and scholarship about their tenacity have blossomed since 1986. Records, and the spirits abiding within them, have been unshackled; they are free and discoverable. Last year, the names of over 5,000 were released, after 24 years. *Forgotten Patriots*⁴ contains proof of their military service, residences and clues to spouses and children. Asa Snelling, Henry Bakeman and Sergeant Isaac Brown are among dozens of patriots reunited with their families. Absalom Martin, a North Carolina soldier, is one of them. Any one of your state’s citizens could be a descendant of the 10,000. Heirs to this legacy could number in the millions. Hundreds more will discover their inheritance over the next decade. The coming together of ancestor and descendant liberates both. I have seen women organize commemorations to convey ancient recollections to the living. I have seen black and white families honor common ancestors and ancestors who knew one another. I have seen it bring grown men to tears.

In Connecticut, Venture Smith and his son, a Revolutionary War soldier, are celebrated annually by his family and community. Historians, anthropologists and genealogists will gather tomorrow in Hartford for the Documenting Venture Smith Conference. Citizens of Montrose, Iowa, celebrate the life of Cato Mead, a Connecticut soldier, who moved to Lee County and died there in 1846. Citizens of Savannah, Georgia and Haiti built a monument to Haitian soldiers who fought there with Gen. Pulaski in 1779. Oscar Marion was honored in the Capitol near his portrait with Gen. Marion. The National Park Service has identified 103 black soldiers at Bunker Hill.

In April 2010, the Cato Freedom Project at Hartwick College in New York will announce the National Freedom Descendants Commission. Students are writing papers, searching for descendants and traipsing through woodlands to discover graves and ancestral lands. The history is required reading in the grade schools of New Jersey. A traveling exhibit, “Oh Freedom!”, commemorates the state’s black patriots. A treasure map of the nation’s birth and cherished principles is being redrawn.

¹This 501(c)(3) non-profit was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 2005.

²Public Law 100-265, March 1988, declares the history of these patriots to be of preeminence: “. . . slaves and free black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution and to honor black men, women, and children who ran away from slavery or filed petitions with courts and legislatures seeking their freedom”.

³Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial, Public Law 99-558, October 1986.

⁴*Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots in the American Revolution*, Washington, D.C.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 2008 (Required by membership settlement agreement of Lena Santos Ferguson, May 1984).

Americans of all races and points-of-view are finding common identity, common values, and common purpose.⁵

The day is coming when the spell cast over history by slavery and Jim Crow is broken. No longer will they warp the way an American sees himself and colors see one another. Lincoln cautioned, “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” Imagine this future memorial as a lighthouse guiding us to where all citizens are bound beyond doubt as “We the people.” In that aim is the preservation of liberty.

[Additional materials submitted have been retained in subcommittee files.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Barboza, for those powerful words.

We now turn to Mr. Harry G. Robinson III. He’s board of directors, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Washington, DC.

Mr. Robinson, welcome, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF HARRY G. ROBINSON, III, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

Mr. ROBINSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I’m Harry Robinson, currently appointed as the Silcott Chair of Architecture and Dean Emeritus at Howard University.

I’m joined today by Jan Scruggs, the young man who had the idea of The Wall, and actually built it.

I speak to you today as a member of the Board of Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund and as a combat veteran of the war in Vietnam, for which I was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

My purpose here today is to support and extension of H.R. 3689, the authorization to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center, from the year 2010 to 2014. I offer a special perspective on this request. I was twice appointed by the President to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, served as his chair and vice chair of that body. Suffice it to say, I understand the requirements of normal flow of approvals for projects on the Mall.

In a—November 2003, Congress passed legislation, subsequently signed by the President, authorizing that a visitor center be built at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Memorial Fund starting working on the project immediately. By February 2004, we had commissioned a comprehensive site study and environmental analysis to determine the most suitable site for the Mall—for the center. We retained design professionals who cared deeply about the National Mall, who had deep involvement in its development. Our requirements and theirs were to conduct a study that respected and protected the Mall’s historic character and national heritage.

Subsequently, the Fund held a national design process to choose an architect and an exhibit designer. The selection committee chose Polshek Partnership Architects and Ralph Appelbaum Associates, a team that had worked together on many award-winning projects.

Supporting this effort, we formed a National Advisory Board to develop recommendations about purpose and content. We chose a broad range of U.S. citizens for this committee—veterans, distinguished former military leaders, authors, journalists, educators,

⁵In March 1984, Congress approved Public Law 98-245 to encourage commemorative and educational activities to honor the black patriots. President Reagan signed the Act in a ceremony in the Oval Office. This precursor to the authority for the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial offers thanks to descendants.

and sociologists—who would guide us in the best way to tell story of the Vietnam War in the Center.

We also began meeting with the Federal commissions responsible for overseeing all the structures built on the National Mall. This is where the delays began. Over the period of more than 4 years, the Fund and its consultants were subjected to extreme and often unwarranted delays and disruptive staff maneuvering, including the 2005 December removal of the Education Center from the agenda of NCPC. At every turn, the Fund and its consultants and the National Park Service cooperated in good faith with the agencies. We conducted and paid for every study requested and were forthcoming in changes to the concept design. To date, we have spent more than \$1 million on concept design fees directly related to concept design proposals and revisions, and an \$80,000 environmental study.

Our response to delays was measured, passed by the House, and considered by the Senate, to end delays. It was only at the presence of this pending action that the site was approved by NCPC, nearly a year and a half from the first meeting with those agencies. I should note that the changes to the Memorial Fund that we were willing to make have been sufficient, including reducing the size of the structure, removing skylights, redirecting walkways, and reorienting the building on the site. We have also reduced the size of the structure significantly.

Most recently, fortunately, we had a meeting with NCPC and CFA together, and we are on track to move forward, with their consent.

This committee, quite appropriately, needs to know why we are asking for an extension. Here is one answer: Our good-faith efforts to meet the unprecedented demands of the Federal commissions have cost us considerable time and money that we need to recoup. There's another reason. We are in the middle of the worst recession our Nation has experienced in decades. I don't have to tell any of you the challenges that every citizen is facing, from families trying to make ends meet to small businesses trying to survive in tough times.

But, in the midst of this, there is good news to report. In spite of the economy, people believe in this project enough to put their money behind it. We have raised more than \$3.5 million in 2009. This includes a \$2.5-million pledge that is not only the largest individual pledge for the Center, it's the largest that the Fund has ever received. These pledges have reinvigorated our efforts. We have raised nearly \$25 million in donations and in-kind gifts, and we estimate that it will take 85 million to build the Center.

Momentum for this project is also building because of our new corporate chairman, San Antonio Spurs owner, Peter M. Holt, who actively pushed the movement forward on all fronts. He is joined by a robust leadership that includes seven Governors from Texas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia. We have pledged to gather support for the Center in their States. The AFL-CIO and its building construction trades department have endorsed this project, as has the VFW, which has pledged \$1 million. Of importance, it has been determined that the construction of this center will generate 200 new jobs.

When Congress passed this bill, authorizing the Center in 2003, you approved the final language unanimously, in both the House and Senate. We ask you to join the House in approving H.R. 3689.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Robinson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HARRY G. ROBINSON, III, VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND, ON H.R. 3689

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee—good afternoon. My name is Harry Robinson. I am a trained architect and city planner, currently serving as professor of urban design and dean emeritus of Howard University. I am also the principal of my own international design firm, TRG Consulting.

I am here today to talk about the Education Center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and I offer a unique perspective. Twice I was appointed by the president to serve on the Commission of Fine Arts—one of the organizations you will be hearing about today. In fact, I was CFA's chairman. I am also a long-time member of the board of directors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the group that is working with the National Park Service to build the Education Center. I am myself a Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, where I received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

I stand before you today, wearing all of these hats, to ask that you support HR 3689 to extend the authorization deadline for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center for four years—from 2010 to 2014.

You are probably wondering why this project needs an extension. I'd like to give you some background.

In November 2003, Congress passed legislation, subsequently signed by the president, authorizing that a visitors' center be built "at or near" the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Memorial Fund started working on the project immediately. By February 2004, we had commissioned a site study and environmental analysis to determine the most suitable site for the center. The survey evaluated visitor circulation, vegetation, vistas, historic landmarks, sound and visual activity, as well as pedestrian and traffic counts. In short, every possible way that the visitor center would affect the area around it was evaluated.

And we chose people who care deeply about the National Mall to conduct this study: JC Cummings, the architect of record for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; as well as Henry Arnold and George Dickie, who designed Constitution Gardens, where the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located. We were confident that this team would not recommend a site that was in any way detrimental to the National Mall—and, indeed, that was one of our original stipulations in choosing a site.

The Memorial Fund also held a national design contest to choose an architect and exhibit designer. We formed an Advisory Board to give us recommendations about displays. We chose a broad range of Americans for this committee: veterans, former military leaders, authors, journalists, educators and sociologists who could guide us in the best way to tell the story of the Vietnam War in this center.

We also began meeting with the federal commissions responsible for overseeing any new structures built on the National Mall. This is where the delays began. Once the results of our site survey were completed, we presented the results, along with our recommendation, to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. After the first meeting, which was held in March 2005, the Commission asked for further study of three sites. After the second meeting the following May, the Commission gave approval to two sites: the site on Henry Bacon Drive for which we ultimately won approval, and a site within the Department of Interior South building.

CFA approved the Henry Bacon Drive site at a September 2005 meeting "subject to conditions of architectural development." While the Memorial Fund and the National Park Service had reasonable expectations that NCPC would follow suit, instead, it deadlocked on every vote on the subject after lengthy debate during an October 2005 meeting. In the end, NCPC asked for further study of the front lawn of the Interior South Building, even though the Secretary of the Interior had removed this building from consideration the previous June. In addition, they asked for further study of one other site and "program information" for the preferred site. In other words, although site approval had not been given, NCPC was asking the Memorial Fund to provide design details for the building it wanted to place there—a building that could not be designed until the final location was known.

While the Memorial Fund and the National Park Service prepared to make a presentation to NCPC at its December 2005 meeting, we were shocked to find that the Education Center had been stricken from the agenda, with the Commission say-

ing it wanted an environmental study completed before it would consider the site favored by the Memorial Fund.

So, working in good faith with NCPC, the Memorial Fund hired an engineering firm to conduct a thorough environmental study on two sites at or near the Memorial to comply with the request. The study took several months to complete and cost \$80,000.

In the end, it nearly took an act of Congress to get site approval for the Education Center. In spite of the fact that the Memorial Fund and National Park Service had submitted to every request of every federal commission they met with, there was no progress. In March 2006, the House passed a measure that would end the delays in site approval by a wide margin, and the Senate began considering the measure the following May. It was only then that NCPC was moved to grant site approval in August 2006—nearly three years after Congress had approved the idea of a visitor center, and nearly a year and a half from the time that the Memorial Fund first met with the federal commissions.

All of that time and money spent—and it was just for site approval.

The complex work began with the design process. Congress mandated that the structure be built “underground.” And indeed, everyone involved with this project, including the Memorial Fund and National Park Service, have been sensitive to preserving the historic vistas near that end of the National Mall. On the other hand, we also need to ensure that our visitors—especially the disabled, and veterans who may have PTSD issues, feel comfortable and safe in the visitor center environment.

We are fortunate to have on our team one of the world’s leading architectural firms, Polshek Partnership Architects. These award-winning architects, led by Jim Polshek, have designed a number of nationally celebrated buildings, as well as some highly successful underground spaces. In Polshek’s capable hands, the daunting challenge of an underground visitor center was managed with innovation and creativity.

To be sure, we still had differences to work out with the federal commissions. But, during meetings with both CFA and NCPC, commissioners were complimentary of the efforts of Jim Polshek and his team, noting that if any architect could take a set of almost impossible conditions and make them work, it was Polshek.

In August 2006, CFA and NCPC jointly issued a set of 15 design guidelines for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center. While these were guidelines and not binding requirements, the Memorial Fund and National Park Service took these suggestions seriously and worked to incorporate as many as possible into the subsequent building plans.

By the spring of 2007, our architects had developed three different plans for how an underground center could be achieved. We took these plans to CFA and NCPC in informal meetings to get their feedback, so we would know how we should proceed. We worked in good faith with these commissions every step of the way, and this good faith work paid off. CFA gave us design concept approval in October 2007 and NCPC, while it does not vote for concept approval, indicated that the design should move forward.

We continue to work with CFA and NCPC to refine our design of the visitor center and work through the approval process. We conducted informational and formal presentations of our latest design earlier this year, receiving feedback from both groups and acting on those recommendations. I should note that the changes the Memorial Fund has been willing to make have been significant, including reducing the size of the structure, removing skylights, redirecting walkways and reorienting the building on the site. At every meeting, we have proven our willingness to listen and accept the commissioners’ advice. Informal meetings with the commissioners have shown us we are on track and moving forward.

I think everyone involved with this project has been relieved that the delays and disagreements of the site approval phase have not resurfaced during the design approval phase. However, it cannot be ignored that site approval ate up hundreds of thousands of dollars and years of effort that could have been better used later.

This committee, quite appropriately, needs to know why we are asking for an extension, and here is one answer: our good faith efforts to meet the unprecedented demands of the federal commissions have cost us time and money that we need to recoup.

There’s another reason: we are in the middle of the worst economy our nation has experienced in decades. I don’t have to tell any of you the challenges that every American is facing—from the family trying to make ends meet to the corporation trying to survive in tough times. All of this affects nonprofit organizations, like the Memorial Fund, as we try to raise money for our various programs. The economy has affected our fundraising for the center as well.

But in the midst of all of this, there is good news to report. In spite of the economy, people believe in this project enough to put their money behind it. We have raised more than \$3.5 million in 2009 alone. This included a \$2.5 million pledge that is not only the largest individual pledge the center has received, but also the largest individual donation the Memorial Fund itself has ever received. These pledges have reinvigorated our fundraising efforts. We have raised nearly \$25 million in donations and in-kind gifts, and we estimate it will take \$85 million in total to build the center.

Momentum for this project is also building because of our new campaign chairman, San Antonio Spurs owner Peter M. Holt, who has actively pushed the movement forward on all fronts. He is joined by a robust leadership team that includes seven governors, from Texas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and New Mexico, who have pledged to gather support for the center in their states. The AFL-CIO, and its Building and Construction Trades Department, have endorsed the project—and many veterans' organizations are behind us as well. In fact, VFW pledged \$1 million. We feel that this is a good indication of how much support we have from all facets of the American public.

When Congress passed the bill authorizing the Education Center in 2003, you approved the final language unanimously in both the House and the Senate. We took that as overwhelming evidence that Congress wants this important learning facility built, so future generations can remember and honor the sacrifices of those who served in Vietnam. The Education Center was conceived as a way to help put faces to the thousands of names on The Wall, to educate future generations about these honorable men and women who gave everything for their country and to give a glimpse into their lives. Help us keep the momentum going by giving us more time. We respectfully ask you to approve HR 3689 at the committee level, and ask for your help to provide for its consideration on the floor of the Senate.

Thank you.

[Additional documents and graphics submitted have been retained in subcommittee files.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

If I might, I'd thank you for your service, on behalf of all the members of this subcommittee and the Senate in general. Your story is one of many that inspires us. Thank you for being here today.

Mr. ROBINSON. Thank you.

Senator UDALL. I'd now like to turn to Mr. David Madden, who hails from Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Mr. Madden, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF DAVID MADDEN, CHAIR, LOUISIANA ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC

Mr. MADDEN. Thank you, Senator Udall.

My testimony comes out of this background. I was founding director of the United States Civil War Center, present chair of the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the author of 40 books, including some Civil War history.

Profoundly convinced of the enduring truth that, in the words of the late venerable historian Shelby Foote, "The Civil War is the crossroads of our being," I initiated, several years ago, the grass-roots effort that has led to S. 1838. Shelby Foote put the emphasis on "is," not on "was," as I do today, because the 4 years of battles, which begin and end, produced almost 12 years of reconstruction, the legacy of which Americans in the North and in the South have experienced, to this very day.

To study, meditate upon, and commemorate the Civil War throughout the years 2011–2015 is to understand 150 years of aftershocks as we also become more informed and aware of the

positive effects, one of which is that African Americans now hold a multitude of high offices throughout this land.

I understand that the commission described in this bill will ensure a suitable national observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by cooperating with and assisting State and national organizations, encouraging inclusiveness and appropriately recognizing the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War, and by providing assistance in the development of programs, projects, and a vast array of activities about the Civil War and reconstruction that have lasting educational value.

When I created the U.S. Civil War Center, 15 years ago, I envisioned a sesquicentennial that would be far richer in possibilities than the centennial, given the fact that we are a far different Nation. A sesquicentennial would look at the war through the perspectives of every academic discipline, profession, and occupation, greatly enhanced by the perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, and other ethnic minorities, and civilians, generally, especially women and children. By overemphasizing the battles, Americans have missed the war's many other facets, including the national effects of reconstruction.

Our emotions, our imaginations, and our intellects have not yet completed the unfinished business to which Lincoln referred in the Gettysburg Address. The 4-year commemoration of the centennial of the Civil War, in the years 1961 to 1965, had a special relevance back then, and produced a national interest in the war that has continued to this day. The sesquicentennial provides a second time, and the last time, for Americans living today to deepen and broaden our understanding of the causes and effects of the war. Or, as the bill states, "The sesquicentennial presents a significant opportunity for Americans to recall and reflect upon the Civil War and its legacy in a spirit of reconciliation and reflection."

As even more special time—an even more special time exists for us today as we try to understand the Civil War of other countries in which we are engaged and the numerous other civil wars worldwide that demand our attention and our concern. The historical context for our Civil War is, then, global. For almost every Nation throughout history has forged its being in civil war.

Civil War Web sites throughout the country reveal that our Civil War is helping other nations understand their own civil wars. President Abraham Lincoln's primary goal was to unite the Nation, not just for its own sake, but also for the good of all nations. He envisioned the leadership that our democracy would provide for the world as a sacred obligation. It is, therefore, only fitting, in our favored time, that, following its creation of the commissions charged with commemorating the bicentennials of the Nation, and, currently, of the great President Lincoln, and the centennial of the Civil War, the Congress of these United States create a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to support the efforts of the States, North and South, that are now planning, or that have already created, their own commissions to make a 4-year revisit to the crossroads of our being.

Thank you, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Madden follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAVID MADDEN, CHAIR, LOUISIANA ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC, ON S. 1838

My name is David Madden, founding director of the United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University, present Chair of the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the author of 40 books, including Civil War history.

Profoundly convinced of the enduring truth that, in the words of the late venerable historian Shelby Foote, the Civil War is the crossroads of our being, I initiated, several years ago, the grass roots effort that has led to Senate Bill 1838. Shelby Foote put the emphasis on "is", not "was," as I do today because the four years of battles that began and ended produced almost 12 years of Reconstruction, the legacy of which Americans, in the North and in the South, have experienced ever since.

To study, meditate upon, and commemorate the Civil War throughout the years 2011-2015 is to understand 150 years of aftershocks as we also become more informed and aware of positive effects, one of which is that African Americans now hold a multitude of high offices throughout this land.

I understand that the Commission described in this bill will ensure a suitable national observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by cooperating with and assisting States and national organizations with programs and activities, encouraging inclusiveness and appropriately recognizing the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War, and by providing assistance in the development of programs, projects, and a vast range of activities about the Civil War and Reconstruction that have lasting educational value.

When I created the United States Civil War Center over ten years ago, I envisioned a Sesquicentennial that would be far richer in possibilities than the Centennial, given the fact that we are a far different nation. A Sesquicentennial would look at the war through the perspectives of every academic discipline, every profession, every occupation, greatly enhanced by the perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, other ethnic minorities, and civilians generally, while emphasizing women and children. By over emphasizing the battles, Americans have missed the war's many other facets, including the effects of Reconstruction, for 150 years.

Our emotions, our imaginations, and our intellects have not yet completed the "unfinished business" to which Lincoln referred in his Gettysburg Address.

The four-year commemoration of the Centennial of the Civil War in the years 1961-1965 had a special relevance and produced a national interest in the war that has continued to this day. The Sesquicentennial provides a second time and the last time for Americans living today to deepen and broaden our understanding of the causes and effects of the war. Or, as the bill states: "The sesquicentennial of the Civil War presents a significant opportunity for Americans to recall and reflect upon the Civil War and its legacy in a spirit of reconciliation and reflection."

An even more special time exists for us today as we try to understand the civil wars of other countries in which we are engaged and the numerous other civil wars worldwide that demand our attention and our concern. The historical context for our civil war is global, for almost every nation throughout history has forged its being in civil war. The United States Civil War Center's website reveals that our civil war is helping other nations understand their own. President Abraham Lincoln's primary goal was to unite the nation, not just for its own sake but also for the good of all nations. He envisioned the leadership that our democracy would provide for the world as a sacred obligation.

It is therefore only fitting in our favored time that, following its creation of the commissions charged with commemorating the bicentennials of the nation and currently of its great President Lincoln and the Centennial of the Civil War, the Congress of these United States create a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to support the efforts of the states north and south that are now planning or that have already created their own commissions to make a four year re-visit to the crossroads of our being.

Over a decade ago, Gabor Boritt, founding director of the Gettysburg Civil War Institute, and I, as founding Director of the United States Civil War Center, seeing the need to voice a grass-roots call for a Sesquicentennial Commission, drafted passages for the bill, first introduced by Senator Breaux of Louisiana.

Hard times and wars were probably the reason the bill has languished. But we remain convinced that even, or especially, in hard times, the positive effects of these commemorative activities are well worth the resources of towns and cities, states, and the federal government.

After resigning my directorship of the Civil War Center at LSU to finish writing the Civil War novel, out of the research for which I conceived the Center, I remained committed to urging the creation of the Commission. In 2007, aware that the Sesquicentennial was drawing nigh, I created, in the office of Louisiana Sec-

retary of State Jay Dardenne, the National Civil War Sesquicentennial Initiative; its mission is to stimulate and direct efforts to plan and facilitate the commemoration. Connecting with all Civil War organizations, I discovered that, with time passing and fearing that no commission was forthcoming, the leaders of most organizations were disheartened.

One year later, I am glad to report progress. Several states have taken the idea of commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War seriously. Some are working with their neighbors while others working alone. Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina each have strong state organizations and are cooperating in extended trail and tourist marketing. Pennsylvania and Virginia have established a regional driving route study called The Journey Through Hallowed Ground along Route 15/20, the Old Carolina Road, from Gettysburg to Charlottesville. West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia have created the John Brown 150th Anniversary Quad-State Committee, which effectively begins the Sesquicentennial activities. Maryland has created the Hear of the Civil War Heritage Area. Connecticut has created a Sesquicentennial Commemoration group to honor the role its soldiers played. New Jersey and Ohio have created similar bodies. West Virginia now has the Civil War Task Force to prepare for the celebration. Arkansas created its commission and has since divided the state into regions that focus on campaigns fought in the state as well as events for each year of the war. Missouri has created the Civil War Heritage Foundation, which has similar goals. An initial effort through the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office has begun limited planning in the Pelican State. Texas is beginning the process of establish historic trails and byways. All of these efforts have been created without a great deal of synergy. Each can be strengthened and augmented by a central planning structure and clearing house—a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The diverse nature of not only each state, but of their efforts put forward during the Civil War exemplifies the rich complexities of the subject and the positive challenge of the task ahead.

Not yet in formation are several states that were heavily involved in the war and that may be in special need of federal guidance and assistance. However, the fact that some states and even regions have already secured some funds and set plans in motion will lessen the need for federal funds.

The effectiveness of states already involved will be greatly enhanced by the leadership of the federal commission, the existence of which may also act to encourage other states to create activities. The Civil War and its aftermath affected every state in the Union and its territories, including California and even Montana.

Likely activities of the Sesquicentennial extend across a broad spectrum, consisting of commemorative ceremonies, speeches, lectures, Civil War heritage trails, preservation projects, exhibits, plays, movies, and other mass media presentations, newspaper and periodical articles, and, of course, books. Many very fine books came out of the Centennial years, as during the current Lincoln Bicentennial. Among universities whose presses are known for publishing Civil War books are LSU, Mississippi, University of Arkansas, University of Kansas, Southern Illinois University, University of Tennessee, University of Georgia, and Kent State, which also publishes a periodical.

Since the Civil War, many little known places and events of the war have been further explored or discovered. For instance, the steamboat Sultana, carrying homeward about 2,000 Union soldiers released from Catapa and Andersonville prisons, exploded in the dark, in the rain several miles above Memphis; over 1500 soldiers and about 200 civilians drowned in the worst maritime disaster in American history, worse than the Titanic, as President Lincoln's funeral train was crossing the country. Even after four books and a documentary have appeared, most Americans remain unaware. This event is a symbolic expression, embodying every adjective for sad loss, of the Civil War. Missing so far is a national conceptual imagination that places the Sultana disaster in a tragic light. Meanwhile, the darkness of that night still hangs, almost 150 years deepening, over the smoke, the screams and the prayers of the victims and the compassionate cries of the rescuers, some of them Confederate soldiers who were also returning home. Only the light of an extraordinary imagination can unweave and raise this unique and complexly meaningful event from the bottom of the Father of Waters.

The Sesquicentennial will call attention to other places and events.

The Centennial gave a boost to longtime efforts to create a state park at Port Hudson, Louisiana, which kept the Union army from coming down river to New Orleans after Vicksburg fell; even so, its fame is not widespread. Efforts that are well underway to bring well-deserved attention to the vital Red River Campaign may well be successful if given encouragement and support by the Sesquicentennial Commission.

The siege at Fort Sanders in Knoxville, Tennessee and generally, the war in the southern Appalachian region are little known.

A Sesquicentennial Commission would help speed up the effort now underway to create a Knoxville area Civil War Center. An effort in the Office of Louisiana's Secretary of State to create a Civil War and Reconstruction Center is now in the planning stage.

The Commission could encourage small towns to discover and make known as tourist attractions Civil War events in their history, thus stimulating their economies. A good example is Black Mountain, North Carolina, about which it is little known, even by its citizens, that so many black slaves escaping from South Carolina made their way to Black Mountain that its population grew from 0.3% African American, to over 89% African American.

Very seldom is the fact cited that 30,000 civilians were Civil War casualties.

Interest in the American Civil War is worldwide. The United States Civil War Center website has received an astonishing number of hits from nations around the world, from Israel to Malaysia. Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright told me that she wishes she had had in hand the book I am writing on the nature and history of civil wars worldwide when she was Ambassador to the UN. Many parallels are readily apparent between our Civil War and The Taiping Rebellion, a widespread civil war in China from 1850 to 1864, led by Christian convert Hong Xiuquan, against the ruling Qing Dynasty. To understand our Civil War is, then, to understand ourselves as we are; to understand the Chinese Civil War is to understand the Chinese today.

If we think of the Civil War Sesquicentennial as four years of many kinds of occasions for revisiting not only the history of the Civil War but also for revisiting our entire history, we will see, as Lincoln often did, how it reflects the legacy of the Declaration of Independence and the consequent Revolutionary War and the legacy of the era in which the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were forged. The legacies of those events often played a role in successive phases of the Civil War era.

We will see how issues dramatized throughout the pre-War and the War years affected the conduct of the long, punitive Reconstruction era, affected by the fact that the assassinated President could not pursue his carefully crafted non-punitive plan for Reconstruction.

We will see how prolonged economic, racial, political, and social problems in the former Confederate states put a drag on the progress of democracy in the nation as a whole throughout times of both prosperity and adversity, and through the Spanish American war, two world wars, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and the civil rights era.

And we will see ways in which the Sesquicentennial will open up fresh perspectives on our involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan "civil wars." How that may happen, we will see, if we remember how the discussions, debates, and books during the conduct of the Civil War Centennial years of 1961 through 1965 influenced the activities of the civil rights movement in ways both negative and positive.

In such considerations of history, we made and we shall make history.

Historian Shelby Foote also said, "There are two sins for which America can never atone—slavery and reconstruction." Even though he was a Southerner, he stressed America, North and South in that pronouncement. Lincoln made the first great effort to atone for slavery; it is clear that we, both North and South, would not have to atone for Reconstruction had Lincoln lived, newly re-elected with enhanced power to promulgate his own plan. A major change in the study of the Civil War since the Centennial is an increased emphasis upon the effect of the war: Reconstruction. The one can most meaningfully studied within the context of the other. Most obviously, the effect of the war upon John Wilkes Booth was to assassinate President Lincoln and that act affected the nature of Reconstruction. The legacy of Reconstruction is in force in our daily lives.

An understanding of the causes and effects of the Civil War in the context of these very changed United States of America will make the democratic vistas of our future brighter, will perhaps lead us at long, long last into an era of reconciliation between north and south and conciliation between white and African Americans.

The Centennial's published report to the Congress and a recent book, *Troubled Commemoration* by Robert J. Cook, provide guidance for a Sesquicentennial Commission by describing the organization's structure and its procedures, the trials and tribulations of the Centennial, and the ways and extent to which they were conducted and overcome.

Those books also clearly show how very different the Sesquicentennial must and may be. With the guidance of the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, along with many other organizations, the participation of African Americans

will be stronger, as will that of Native Americans and other minorities, including Latinos, Asians, Jews, and Americans of every national origin.

Today, our democratic spirit of compromise and practices of resolution make disputes among all participants far less likely. For instance, despite infrequent and strictly localized debates over the Confederate battle flag (often replaced by the far less problematic Confederate states flag), the Southern states are so thoroughly transformed, economically, politically, and socially as to make predictions of greater cooperation with Northern states and with African Americans credible.

The following list of the U. S. Civil War Center's advisory board members who have served over the years will give some indication of the sustained support for the creation of a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission:

Gabor Boritt, Lincoln scholar and Founding Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg, sister organization to the USCWC; James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., formerly chair of the Civil War Centennial board, present director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, John Hope Franklin, renowned African American program historian (deceased); Shelby Foote, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and historian (deceased); Ted Turner; Ron Maxwell, author and director of Gettysburg and Gods and Generals; Jeff Shaara, author of Gods and Generals, two other Civil War novels and several others depicting America's wars, donor of the Michael Shaara prize for Civil War novels; Glenn Seaborg, Nobel Prize winner in physics (deceased); William Davis, author of 40 books of mostly Civil War history, director of Virginia Center for Civil War Studies; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, sports legend, writing a Civil War novel; Rita Dove, African American former U. S. Poet Laureate; Frank Magill, publisher, who pledged a million dollars to establish the USCWC at LSU (deceased, replaced by his son); E. O. Wilson, Pulitzer Prize winning biologist; Ken Burns, renowned director of the epic documentary The Civil War; T. Michael Parrish, Civil War historian who first proposed the creation of the Sesquicentennial Commission; John Simon, Grant historian and director of the Grant Foundation; Ed Bearss, chief historian of the National Park Service; Waylon Jennings, composer-singer of Civil War songs (deceased); Tom Wicker, journalist, novelist.

The nature of the Civil War, its causes and effects, and its status as the crossroads of our being, make the work of a Sesquicentennial Commission peculiarly well situated to make American citizens aware of their entire history. Our generation has already been favored with major commemorations: The Civil War Centennial, the Bicentennial of our nation, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial. Nevertheless, ignorance of our history, from Plymouth Rock to Iraq, is a reality of very serious national concern. For instance, despite the good work of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and several state commissions, the hard fact is that many Americans, among them the well educated, do not know, within three months of the end, that the Bicentennial is underway. All the greater was and is the need for the current Lincoln Commission and in the following year for the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

A major focus of most activities during the four years of the Civil War sesquicentennial, as it has been for the one-year Lincoln Bicentennial, will be upon the children, in schools and in other public venues. Teaching history to our children is made all the more difficult in a context of adult ignorance of history. A nation regarded as the leader of the world must not act out of ignorance of its own history. Knowing its own history will make this nation as world leader much more credible and effective. We would do well to close that sequence of commemorations in our time with the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

[Additional information submitted has been retained in subcommittee files.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Madden. I know Dr. Foote would have been thrilled to hear what you just shared with us. As I glanced over your testimony, the story of the Sultana, for example, is one that could be told more broadly.

Mr. MADDEN. Oh, yes.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for your testimony here today.

Mr. MADDEN. Thank you, sir.

Senator UDALL. We now turn to Mr. Edwin Fountain, who's the director of the World War I Memorial Foundation here in Washington, DC.

Mr. Fountain, welcome, and the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF EDWIN FOUNDATION, DIRECTOR,
WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

Mr. FOUNTAIN. Thank you, Chairman Udall.

My name is Edwin Fountain. I'm an attorney in private practice here in Washington, the grandson of two World War I veterans, and a cofounder of the Foundation.

In addition to the support of Senators Webb, Thune, and Rockefeller, I'd like to acknowledge the other cosponsors of the bill, Senators Barrasso, Burr, Inhofe, Lieberman, Brownback, Byrd, and Tim Johnson, and I'm advised that Senators Inouye and DeMint will also be signing on to the bill. We also have the support of the American Legion Department of the District of Columbia, which holds a annual Memorial Day commemoration at the DC War Memorial. Two days ago, the District of Columbia city council passed a resolution in support of S. 2097, which I would be happy to pass up to staff to be entered into the record.

Senator UDALL. We'll introduce that in the record, without objection.

Mr. FOUNTAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We come to the question of a national World War I memorial somewhat through the backdoor, because in the 1920s, when the Liberty Memorial and the DC War Memorial were being developed and built and dedicated, we didn't think of national war memorials. Every town in the country has its own local war memorials, whether they be to the local veterans of the Civil War or World War I or, often, all the Nation's wars collectively. In Washington, of course, there are numerous memorials to generals and statesmen of the Revolution and the Civil War. But, until the Vietnam Veterans Memorial came along, there were no national war memorials, so to speak. The District of Columbia War Memorial sat on the Mall, alone, for 50 years. Then the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated, around 1980—I forget exactly the year. Since then, the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial have come along and followed.

So, in an ad hoc fashion, we now have this war memorial park, located around the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, including national memorials to three of the four great wars of the 20th century, but no national memorial to World War I. World War I was, of course, the first time that American soldiers went overseas in defense of liberty and against foreign aggression.

I don't think I need to make the case, at this point, for a national memorial. But the absence of a national memorial on the Mall has now become a glaring omission, because we tell part of the story of the American century on the Mall, but not the entire story, without a national memorial. I wager that most members of the committee, like myself, drove by the DC memorial, or walked past it, or ran past it, for years, without ever knowing what it was. It's a neglected, forgotten memorial. Frankly, that's part of its beauty and its poignancy. But it is overlooked. No one really knows what it is. Part of our purpose, frankly, is not to Federalize the DC memorial, but to elevate its status, and give it stature commensurate with that of the other memorials. It doesn't appear on most maps

or signs on the National Mall, directing visitors to it, or even telling them what it is.

So, there's this quartet of memorials to the major wars of the 20th century; only World War I lacks a national memorial on the Mall, and the proposed bill would rectify that by authorizing rededication of the DC memorial as a National and a District of Columbia War Memorial, thereby giving honor to the veterans of World War I that is equal to that bestowed on the veterans of other major wars, while helping future generations of Americans to know the complete history of America's 20th-century struggle against aggression and totalitarianism.

Director Stevenson suggested that the proposed design would overwhelm or so alter the present site that it would become a new memorial. To the contrary, the bill expressly provides that any additional element introduced would complement and preserve the existing memorial. Moreover, under the Commemorative Works Act, any design would be subject to design review by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. So, those concerns would certainly be taken into account.

Finally, the location of a national memorial on the Mall in Washington need not detract from the commendable efforts of the citizens of Kansas City. The Liberty Memorial has properly been designated by the government as a national symbol of World War I. The National World War I Museum is appropriately located in Kansas City, much as the National World War II Museum is located in New Orleans, while the National Memorial is here in Washington. We fully support the proposal to establish a World War I Centennial Commission based in Kansas City.

Now, speaking to commissions, the Interior Department proposes a study for their—of World War I Memorials at a cost of \$300,000 and taking 3 years. In 3 years, we will be on the eve of the centennial of the—of World War I, leaving no time to make appropriate provisions for a national memorial in time for that centennial.

So, we believe the Congress would diminish the sacrifice of Frank Buckles and almost 5 million other Americans in World War I, including 116,000 dead, if it did not honor them on the Mall in the same manner as the veterans of the wars that followed. We ask the Senate to pass S. 2097.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fountain follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF EDWIN L. FOUNTAIN, DIRECTOR, WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, ON S. 2097

Chairman Udall and members of the Committee:

My name is Edwin Fountain. I am an attorney in private practice here in Washington, and the grandson of two World War I veterans. I am a co-founder and director of the World War I Memorial Foundation. The Foundation is proud to have as its honorary chairman Mr. Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I.

Last year, Mr. Buckles came to Washington for a ceremony in his honor at the Pentagon. During that trip he visited the District of Columbia War Memorial, located on the Mall between the World War II and Korean War memorials. He was distressed to see that it was only a memorial to the veterans of D.C., and not a national memorial.

Throughout our country's history, towns and cities have erected their own war memorials, be they to local veterans of the Civil War, or of World War I, or of all the nation's wars collectively. In Washington, there are of course numerous memo-

rials to generals and statesmen of the Revolution and the Civil War. But until the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was conceived thirty years ago, there were no national war memorials.

Today we have on the Mall national memorials to three of the four great wars of the 20th century, located in what has become a de facto “war memorial park” around the Lincoln Reflecting Pool.

There is, however, no national memorial to World War I. With the irony of hindsight, that war was at first called “the war to end all wars.” In retrospect, we now know that “the Great War” was but the first time that American soldiers would go overseas in defense of liberty against foreign aggression. Over 4.7 million Americans served in uniform, and 116,516 gave their lives—more than in Korea and Vietnam combined.

World War I was also the first great conflict of what has come to be known as “the American century.” It led directly to the Second World War, and its consequences are still felt today in ongoing conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Israel and Palestine, and Iraq.

Few Americans today know this history, and the absence of a national memorial to World War I on the Mall in Washington has become a glaring omission, all the more so because the centennial of the war is less than five years away.

S 2097 would fill that void, by authorizing the re-dedication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a “National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial.”

The D.C. War Memorial was dedicated in 1931 as a memorial to the 499 residents of the District who died in the war. President Hoover spoke at its dedication, and John Philip Sousa conducted the Marine Corps band. It stood alone for fifty years, until it was joined by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and then later by the Korean War and World War II memorials.

As indicated on the attached map,* together with those three other memorials, it comprises a quartet of memorials to the major wars of the 20th century. Yet alone among those memorials, it lacks national status. Few residents or visitors are even aware of the memorial, much less know what it is. Most maps and signs do not even refer to the memorial.

S 2097 would authorize its re-dedication as a national memorial, and thereby give honor to the veterans of World War I that is equal to that bestowed on the veterans of the other major wars, while helping future generations of Americans to know the complete history of America’s 20th-century struggle against aggression and totalitarianism.

Re-dedication of the D.C. memorial would not be contrary to the Commemorative Works Act. That Act prohibits the location of any new commemorative works on the Mall. However, S 2097 does not authorize a new commemorative work, but rather the re-dedication and enhancement of a memorial that already exists on the Mall.

Moreover, the local character of the existing memorial would be preserved. While Section 3 of the proposed bill permits the addition of an appropriate sculptural or other commemorative element, in order to give the memorial a national character, it also specifies that any such feature shall “complement and preserve the existing memorial and its landscape.” In this way the sacrifice of District residents in the war will continue to be honored, and the peaceful and secluded character of the site will be preserved.

We emphasize that S 2097 is not meant to somehow “federalize” the District’s memorial. Rather, it will bring attention to the memorial by elevating it to the same status enjoyed by the surrounding war memorials. At the same time, the memorial will provide visitors a lesson in the history of our memorials, while calling their attention to their own memorials back home.

Finally, location of a national memorial on the Mall in Washington need not diminish the commendable efforts of the citizens of Kansas City. The Liberty Memorial has already, and properly, been designated by the Congress as a national symbol of World War I. The national World War I museum is appropriately located in Kansas City—much as the national World War II museum is located in New Orleans, while the national memorial is here in Washington. As noted in Mr. Buckles’ letter of October 4, 2008 to the Missouri Congressional delegation (attached),** both he and our Foundation support Kansas City’s museum and its proposal to establish a World War I centennial commission based in Kansas City.

Twenty-five million people, from around the country and across the world, visit the Mall each year. As we have heard from thousands of students, veterans and citizens around the country who support our cause, those visitors expect to honor the

* Map has been retained in subcommittee files.

** See Appendix.

nation's veterans in the nation's capital—as evidenced by the location of the other great war memorials in Washington.

Congress would be minimizing the sacrifice of Frank Buckles and almost five million other Americans in World War I, including 116,000 dead, if it did not honor them on the Mall in the same manner as the veterans of the wars that followed.

We ask the Senate to pass S 2097. On behalf of Mr. Buckles and the Foundation, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Fountain.

I will now recognize myself for a series of questions. I think I'd like to start by focusing on this discussion of the World War I memorial. Mr. Alexander, I'll direct some questions to you and then turn to Mr. Fountain.

Mr. Alexander, in your opinion, is it important that there be one recognized national World War I memorial or are multiple memorials in different parts of the country appropriate?

Mr. ALEXANDER. There are numerous memorials throughout the country, but on different levels, different scales. So, there are, I would estimate, something like 500 different memorials, most of which are dedicated to local communities whose members sacrificed during World War I. The memorial in Kansas City was designed to honor those people throughout the United States who sacrificed during World War I. So, we're different than many other local kinds of memorials.

In essence, we've been acting as the de facto national memorial for 80-some years, and we've been given that sanction, first by President Coolidge, then again by President Eisenhower and President Truman, and we hope that we can continue doing that in Kansas City.

Senator UDALL. A second question for you. What's your response to those who question whether it's appropriate to have a national war memorial that's privately owned and operated and charges an entrance fee?

Mr. ALEXANDER. As a point of clarification, the museum and memorial are owned by the city of Kansas City and managed by the Liberty Memorial Association, through a management agreement with the City, so it's not privately owned, but it's operated independently. I'm sorry—your question?

Senator UDALL. What's your response to those who would question whether it's appropriate to have a national war memorial that's privately owned and operated and that charges an entrance fee?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I mean, we are self-supporting. We get a small subsidy from the City, but we are essentially self-supporting. We also have taken, traditionally, no tax dollars to support ourselves, and it's necessary for us to charge an admission to manage ourselves. So, I think, one way or another, the citizens of this country pay for it. In our case, the users are actually paying directly to visit the museum, rather than it coming through a tax base or another means.

Senator UDALL. Thank you.

Let me turn to Mr. Fountain.

I'd like to know more about the World War I Memorial Foundation. Was it established just for the purpose of rededicating the memorial, or is it involved with other issues?

Mr. FOUNTAIN. It was established with 2 purposes. The first was to advocate and raise funding for the restoration of the memorial. I do want to applaud the National Park Service for allocating funds, under the stimulus bill, to that restoration. So, they accomplished that half of our mission for us, and we're very grateful.

The other purpose is to, first, advocate for congressional authorization for the rededication, and then to raise the funds necessary to implement that, and it would be a entirely privately funded, non-Federal-funds project.

Senator UDALL. Let me follow up on the money. What kind of money do you anticipate it would take to do the rededication work? Do you have a plan for raising those funds?

Mr. FOUNTAIN. To be honest, if this was over \$5 million, then we were too ambitious, in terms of the scale of what we're providing—what we're seeking. I've—you know, some sculptors have already approached us, expressing interest in the project. You know, a back-of-the-envelope quotation for an-foot-high bronze is a few hundred thousand dollars. So, we're not talking—you know, we are not talking something the size—the scale of the World War II Memorial.

We would anticipate accommodation of corporate and private donations. One of my cofounders was a photographer, who set out the photograph the last surviving veterans of the war, when there were about a dozen left, has a traveling exhibit of his photographs and other artifacts of the war that is now going to schools around the country that are using it as a basis of fund-raisers, much as the DC War Memorial was funded, in large part through schoolchildren contributions. We would seek to include that, as well. But, a combination of corporate and private funding.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification.

I did, for the record, want to include a conversation I had with Senator Thune on the way to vote. He had a chance to visit with Mr. Buckles earlier during the day, and he asked him what his secret was—or his secrets were, to live to the age of 108. Mr. Buckles' response was a threefold response. No. 1, it's important to stay busy and engaged. No. 2, to exercise. No. 3, to start young.

[Laughter.]

Senator UDALL. Now, Senator Thune and I think he meant that about exercising, but I think he also meant it in a sense of stay young in your thinking and your outlook. But, given the celebrity nature of his appearance here today, I want to make sure we learned the appropriate lessons—along with his wonderful, patriotic service.

Mr. Madden, let me turn to you. Some Senators have criticized other Federal commissions established to commemorate a significant historical event as a waste of money. As you noted, several States are already planning their commemoration efforts. Can you explain what you see the Commission adding to the sesquicentennial commemoration efforts?

Mr. MADDEN. The States that have already begun, did not begin, really, until a couple of years ago, when, I understand, Civil War organizations generally—despite an early attempt that I made to bring them all together to support this bill, they felt that there probably wouldn't be, because time was running out, a commission.

So, certain States and organizations went ahead on their own. There are very few who have made significant progress. I think Virginia is probably in the lead, North Carolina is significant. But, that leaves out a good part of the Nation, and that leaves out what I consider a very important opportunity for other parts of this nation—other States—to get to know the significance of this crossroads of our being, to make it part of their being, so that we need leadership of a commission, if not funds. But, certainly funds for those States and those places that don't have any money. We need the leadership and some degree of funds to jumpstart, to inspire, to encourage those States and organizations that have not yet gone ahead on their own.

I think it would be a piecemeal celebration that would not bring honor to this country if the rest of the Nation looks at what Virginia, let's say, is doing, Pennsylvania is doing, but that feels that it is a localized sort of experience. So, I think it's essential that this have some strong national face.

As far as the money is concerned, I just want to point out that I created the Civil War Center with almost nothing. I conducted it for 7 years for less than 30,000 a year. So, there are ways, with a little bit of money and with the authority I had from the University, which is the parallel to the commission—there are ways to do an incredible lot, as we've done with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in Louisiana, with very, very little money.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification. My wife's from North Carolina. She has a number of degrees. One of them is in English and American Literature. She was very fond of Faulkner. Because you're here, I wanted you to edify me. I think she is fond of pointing out that one of Faulkner's characters, when asked about the Civil War and whether it was over, said something to the effect, "No, the Civil War is not over. It's never over. We're still fighting the Civil War."

Mr. MADDEN. Oh, yes. That's right.

Senator UDALL. Is that reasonably accurate?

Mr. MADDEN. Yes. But, I think—as I pointed out in the long version of my testimony, I think that the conflict is not going to be anywhere near as severe as it was in the Centennial, which was a success, after all. This is a democracy, where you deal with conflicts. I think that we're such a totally different Nation, that those elements that might want to make this a contentious occasion are in the tiny minority. But, I will say, for your wife's edification, if I may—

Senator UDALL. My edification.

Mr. MADDEN [continuing]. That the greatest Civil War novel is "Absalom, Absalom!"

Senator UDALL. I take note, and I will do my best to find the time to—

Mr. MADDEN. I hope she went to Appalachian State University, where I first taught, in 1957; my first teaching job.

Senator UDALL. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but she's a Tar Heel. She went—

Mr. MADDEN. What?

Senator UDALL [continuing]. To school in Chapel Hill.

Mr. MADDEN. Oh, Chapel Hill. Oh, yes.

Senator UDALL. She's a Tar Heel. So, she—

Mr. MADDEN. OK. Yes.

Senator UDALL. But, thank you for indulging me. This is powerful testimony, and the more we remember the right kinds of lessons, the better our country will be. So, thank you, again, for elaborating.

Let me turn to Mr. Barboza. Perhaps more than anyone in this room, you have the difficulty of seeing a memorial through to completion. Given the difficulty and the years of delay with the previous authorization, why do you expect that a new authorization would be more successful?

Mr. BARBOZA. I know what some of the problems were with the previous one, and it didn't have anything to do with the merit of the history or of raising funds. Certainly, enough funds were built to build a memorial, but it didn't get done. Those things happen. It's happened with many projects. But, I feel that the difference here is that we have living descendants, now, who are discovering their ancestors. This is very powerful stuff. We needed to do this many, many years ago, generations ago. After the Civil War, we needed to reconcile ourselves, our history, and come to understand who we are as Americans, because the only thing that holds us together is our principles. If we don't understand that, and we continue to question who an American is, because of their race, their color, their background, their religion, their political thought, we're never going to get anywhere. In order to preserve our Nation, we have to preserve liberty.

This connection to the Civil War—it was my great-great-grandfather—a photograph that I saw when—my first memory of my grandmother's house was walking in and seeing this picture of my great-great-grandfather in a Civil War uniform. I didn't know who he was or what. It wasn't until years later that I began to ask questions. That's how I discovered the Black patriots, through my own research, finding out that I had an ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War, having my aunt's application rejected by the Daughters of the American Revolution, then spending 24 years to have the Daughters of the American Revolution fulfill her membership agreement in 1984, and that is to identify every Black soldier who served in the war. That has been completed. Now we know who they are, and people are discovering their ancestors through that documentation.

One last thing. I started young. Fortunately. Half an age ago. So, I'm pleased to be here.

I just want to say that the name Udall stands out in my memory of the Kennedy administration, of the very height, and your family's contributions. So, I'm honored to be here.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that acknowledgment, and I'll pass your regards on to my Uncle Stewart, who served as Interior Secretary and—

Mr. BARBOZA. Indeed.

Senator UDALL. He started young, too, given he's 90 years old.

Mr. BARBOZA. Wonderful.

Senator UDALL. Let me—one last question. Do you anticipate you'd stay with the same design for the previously authorized memorial, or—

Mr. BARBOZA. No.

Senator UDALL [continuing]. Are you considering something different?

Mr. BARBOZA. No, we'll—we will consider a new design. That will be entirely left behind. This will be an entirely new project with a new site and a new design.

Senator UDALL. OK. Thank you for those insights and sharing your own story. It gave me goose bumps to hear you account—share that account with us. I think—and it's hard—what you're saying is, we're all Americans. America is a place, but it's also an idea; and you keep both alive by pursuing what you're proposing.

Let me turn—not last, but not least—to Mr. Robinson.

I had—before I ask you my question, I had a wonderful opportunity—Jan Scruggs might be interested in this—to spend a few days with Maya Lin in, all places, Tibet, about 15 years ago. I was on an expedition to Mount Everest. She happened to be traveling in Tibet with a friend. She's Chinese-American. She doesn't speak a word of Mandarin or the major Chinese dialects, but she was eagerly soaking up all that that great country has to offer, and she was in Tibet, as well, when I met her. The story of that memorial and the effect it's had on all of us is such a powerful one.

You described the efforts that the Memorial Fund has made in securing the necessary authorizations and steps you've, so far, taken to raise the funds. You still need to raise—I think, it's about \$60 million, which is—

Mr. ROBINSON. About 60 million.

Senator UDALL [continuing]. More than double what you've raised to date. How confident are you that your organization can raise those remaining funds by the extended authorization deadline?

Mr. ROBINSON. We're very confident. Our current chairman, our current corporate campaign chairman, Peter Holt, has taken this on as a full-time endeavor. He's—he has a firm that's working for him on just this. In just the past several months, we've had major contributions. We have a plan to raise this money. One of the plans is that we would go to VFW and Military Order of the Purple Heart chapters and ask them to support the names that are on The Wall from those locations; \$1,000 per name. We've tried that. We've been very successful at doing it, and we're very confident that we're going to be able to raise this money.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that additional detail, and for the work you've done, again, and for—as I said earlier, for your service and your example. It's a powerful one.

Senator UDALL. Let me bring the hearing to a conclusion.

I want to thank all of you for your time and the insights you provided. Clearly, each one of you is passionate about your specific proposal, and your testimonies helped us, and me, better understand the issues.

Mr. Alexander, did you want to—

Mr. ALEXANDER. Senator, may I make a point of clarification?

Senator UDALL. Yes. Sure. Of course.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you.

Senator UDALL. Of course.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I just want to note that there is no cost to see the memorial itself at the Liberty Memorial. It is just admission to the museum. Part of our success throughout the years has been our ability to generate support, both publicly and privately, to help minimize that cost.

I might also note that the National Park Service now is forced to charge admission to many of its sites, as well. It's one of those unfortunate necessities to sustain nonprofit organizations.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for that clarification.

That does lead into my final comments, as we formally end the hearing, and that's that some members of the committee may submit additional questions in writing to each of you, and, if so, we'd ask you submit answers for the record. We'll also keep the record open for a couple more weeks for any additional comments you may want to make. There may be ways in which you want to elaborate or clarify or provide us with additional information. We want you to do that, because, as we move forward to making decisions about how we may proceed, or changes we might want to make, we need that information.

So, again, thank you for spending your time here this afternoon. This was a memorable hearing today.

The subcommittee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:15 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

[Due to the large amount of materials received, only a representative sample of statements follow. Additional documents and statements have been retained in sub-committee files.]

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Washington, DC, November 24, 2009.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building 110, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR UDALL: On behalf of the 2.2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I would like to offer our strong support for H.R. 3689, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center.

This important legislation would help build a visitors' center near the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall. This visitors' center would show the many unique and meaningful items that have been left at the memorial to honor those who gave their lives serving our country. The center would serve as a place to educate America's youth as well as continue the healing fought valiantly for our country. We thank you for reviewing this bill before your committee.

We look forward to working with you to help pass this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. TRADEWELL, SR.,
Commander-in-Chief.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT,
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR—CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2009.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BINGAMAN: On behalf of the skilled craft professionals who comprise the 13 national and international unions of the Building and Construction Trades Department, I write to you today to encourage your active support for HR 3689, which would extend the legislative authority for the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. and authorize the funds for the construction of an Education and Visitors Center for the Memorial.

The Viet Nam Veterans Memorial has become not only an iconic symbol of the courage, bravery and sacrifice exhibited by the men and women who served during that era, but it also serves as a spiritual destination for millions of Americans who make the determined pilgrimage to Washington, DC in order to come to grips with the loss of a loved one or comrade, or to alleviate their suffering and begin the process of healing.

The Education and Visitors Center has been conceived as a way to put faces to the names that are on the Wall; to bring to life their stories; and to help millions of Americans better understand, and appropriately honor, the men and women who gave all that they had in service to their country during that era.

Therefore, on behalf of the tens of thousands of our members who are veterans of the Viet Nam War (including myself), I respectfully request that you do all that you can to approve this legislation and provide an additional boost to the momentum that is carrying us towards the construction of this important facility.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

MARK H. AYERS,
President.

NATIONAL COALITION TO SAVE OUR MALL,
Rockville, MD, December 1, 2009.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC.

RE: Reauthorization of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center

DEAR CHAIRMAN UDALL AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: We urge you during the December 3 hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks to shine new light on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center project, especially on new circumstances that raise serious doubts about the need, location, and long-term impact of the project on the Vietnam Memorial itself and the National Mall. The failure of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to secure adequate funding in seven years speaks also to the lack of strong public support for this addition to the Memorial.

The National Coalition to Save Our Mall is a nonprofit citizens organization seeking a broad, visionary plan for the National Mall. We are the only organized voice for the public on Mall matters. We have strongly opposed the location for the visitor center at the Vietnam Memorial, stating in writing and during public consultation meetings that it will detract from the visitor's experience of the Memorial itself, encroach on the nearby Lincoln Memorial, and destroy more open space on the National Mall. We have participated actively in the Historic Preservation Act public consultation process for this project for several years now and our opposition has only intensified as we learn more about the project details.

Reasons for Congress to reject reauthorization of the Visitors Center on the National Mall site including the following:

1. Most significant is the question of need. The stated reasons for the Visitors Center now seem redundant with the reopening of the newly revamped National Museum of American History. The justification for construction of this visitor center was to explain the Vietnam War to visitors who do not know about this critical event American history. The Vietnam Veterans Fund also has stated that the center would put this war in the larger context of American wars. The newly reopened American History Museum, located only a few blocks from the Vietnam Memorial, accomplishes these goals amply. The museum features a marvelous new exhibit entitled "The Price of Freedom" that puts the Vietnam War in an interesting perspective as part of the larger story of Americans at war. A separate Vietnam War visitor center is not needed and would compete with the Smithsonian's new permanent exhibit.

2. Modern electronic communications, not yet well developed at the time the visitor center was first authorized, can be developed to offer simple, low-cost educational and interpretive materials without the need for costly new construction and the long-term maintenance and other costs associated with underground construction. Furthermore, electronic materials can be updated and revised as needed in coming years to readily adapt to changing needs.

3. Congress mandated that the Visitors Center be located "underground" to protect the Mall's open space but the project, while sunken below grade, is not underground but instead creates a large open pit on this historically sensitive site. We understand the difficulty of meeting the "underground" requirement. However, after three years of trying to find a successful solution, it seems clear that the designers are unable to build the structure underground that also protects, as required by the Commemorative Works Act, the Mall's historic plans and public open space. This sensitive Mall site simply cannot accommodate the proposed project. An added consequence of the location, which is at the main bus drop-off for this part of the National Mall and thus the first attraction visitors will encounter, is that visitors may choose to visit the visitor center first and afterwards decide not to cross busy Henry Bacon Drive to the Memorial itself—a tragic loss for visitors and this powerfully moving Memorial.

4. This visitor facility already has spawned new calls for such centers elsewhere, most recently in connection with the future Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. In the case of the MLK Memorial, a new Visitor Center/Bookstore/Restroom facility was added to the project in 2005—two years after Congress passed the moratorium on any future memorials or visitors centers on the Mall—be-

cause the Memorial sponsor and the National Park Service argued that such a visitor center was needed to provide interpretation for the Memorial. The federal and District project review agencies have accepted that reasoning. We are concerned that with the Vietnam visitor center as a precedent the floodgates will open to additional visitors centers at each and every memorial on the National Mall, further cluttering the open landscape with retail and exhibitions better reserved for our national museum buildings. With no enforcement, the moratorium is not working.

In conclusion, the Vietnam Visitors Center, so controversial and divisive from the start, has been proven in recent years to be redundant and destructive of the sensitive historic landscape and should not be reauthorized.

In our view—and given the recurring problems of exceptions such as this project being made to the Commemorative Works Act—there is a need for a hearing about reviewing and perhaps reforming the Commemorative Works Act. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about such a review.

Sincerely,

JUDY SCOTT FELDMAN, PH.D.,
Chair and President.

November 24, 2009

Hon. CLAIR MCCASKILL,
U.S. Senator, Hart Senate Office Building, SH-717, Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCASKILL: On behalf of the SGT. Alvin C. York Family, we fully support the federal legislation to designate the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial. We are very pleased that this designation is under consideration.

Alvin C. York of Pall Mall, Tennessee, is the most decorated United States World War I soldier. His battlefield exploits on October 8, 1918, earned him the Medal of Honor. He fearlessly led seven men who charged with great daring a machine gun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machine gun nest was taken, together with four officers and 128 men and several guns. The courage and sacrifice that Sergeant York and all World War I soldiers gave our nation are honored everyday at the Liberty Memorial.

The Liberty Memorial was built to honor all American World War I soldiers. A fundraising drive in 1919 raised more than \$2.5 million in less than two weeks to fund its design and construction. From the beginning, the Liberty Memorial has been recognized as a national treasure. As stated by President Coolidge during the 1926 opening ceremony:

Today I return at the special request of the distinguished senators from Missouri and Kansas, and on the invitation from your committee on arrangements in order that I may place the official sanction of the national government upon one of the most elaborate and impressive memorials that adorn our county.

This was further solidified when Congress passed a resolution in October 2000 “recognizing the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, as a national World War I symbol honoring those who defended liberty and our country through service in World War I.”

The National World War I Museum was designated as such by the U.S. Congress in 2004 and is located within the Liberty Memorial complex. It is the only Museum in the United States solely dedicated to the Great War. The site also received National Historic Landmark status in 2006.

The inscription at the base of the Liberty Memorial Tower reads, “In Honor of Those who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country,” and for more than eighty years, the Liberty Memorial has been the country’s leading institution in remembering World War I. I believe the National World War I Memorial should be in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sincerely,

GEORGE EDWARD YORK.
BETSY YORK LOWERY.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2009.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, U.S. House of
Representatives, 2347 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR GENTLEMEN: After reviewing the proposed Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1849, the World War I Memorial and Centennial Act of 2009, offered by Mr. Towns (NY), The American Legion is prepared to offer its full support of this proposed amendment.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 by veterans of the War to End All Wars—World War I. Public Law 108-375 officially recognized the National World War I Museum. The American Legion believes it is only fitting to officially designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum as the National World War I Memorial.

This legislation also calls for the establishment of a World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I that would promote the values of honor, courage, patriotism and sacrifice. The American Legion would be honored to have a representative on such a Commission.

Again, The American Legion fully supports this proposed amendment and would encourage you and your colleagues to aggressively pursue timely enactment.

Sincerely,

CLARENCE E. HILL,
National Commander.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Jefferson City, MO, October 7, 2009.

Hon. EMANUEL CLEAVER, II,
U.S. Representative, 1027 Longworth Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CLEAVER, On Behalf of the 54,000 Legionnaires of The American Legion Department of Missouri, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to our Country and to the citizens of the Great State of Missouri. Recently during our 91st Annual Department Convention, held in Jefferson City, Missouri, we adopted Missouri Resolution Three, which urges The Congress of the United States to designate The Liberty Memorial, at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri as "The National World War I Memorial". I have attached a copy of said resolution.*

The Liberty Memorial site was dedicated in November of 1921 and marks the only time in history that five Allied Military Leaders were present to honor the more than 4,000,000 men and women that served during World War I. General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, a native of Missouri, noted on that day "the people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of this beautiful memorial, erected in Tribute to the Patriotism, the gallant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country's Armed Forces during the World War. It Symbolized their grateful appreciation of Duty Well Done, and appreciation, which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited".

The Memorial has been and still remains a proud part of the patriotic heritage of, not only the people of Missouri, but of The United States of America and should be designated as "The national World War I Memorial".

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

VICTOR J. STRAGLIATI,
Department Commander.
WADE F. PROSSER,
Department Adjutant.

*Document has been retained in subcommittee files.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Kansas City, MO, March 31, 2009.

Brian Alexander,
National WWI Museum, 100 West 26th Street, Kansas City, MO.

DEAR MR. ALEXANDER, On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we fully agree with the federal legislation granting official status to the Liberty Memorial, designating it as the National World War I Memorial.

As you know, just two weeks after the November 11, 1918 Armistice, Kansas Citizens embarked on a campaign that would one day create the National World War I Museum. A community-based fundraising drive in 1919 raised more than \$2.5 million in less than two weeks to build the Liberty Memorial. After three years of construction, the Liberty Memorial opened on November 11, 1926, immediately becoming an iconic landmark.

Because of their efforts, we have today a valuable repository of America's heritage. The Liberty Memorial is a place where history, achievement, courage and sacrifice become real for all people. The Liberty Memorial is the strongest link we have to the more than 2 million American men and women who served during World War I.

Since its dedication, the Liberty Memorial has enabled millions of deserving citizens and foreign visitors alike, an opportunity to travel to Kansas City to visit and appreciate one of America's most cherished monuments. Without the existence of the Liberty Memorial, it is quite possible the memory of those who fought during World War I would fade and then disappear.

The effort to secure official designation is easily supported by the VFW. As an organization of combat veterans, we believe that it is imperative to ensure the memory of their courage and sacrifice will not fade or disappear into anonymity . . . that would be an irretrievable loss to the nation. Accordingly, we will present the attached resolution proposal at our 110th National Convention in August.

We thank you for your service and dedication in honoring such a critical historical legacy and please let us know where we can further assist in this noble effort.

Sincerely,

GLEN M. GARDNER, JR.,
Commander-in-Chief.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2009.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building—Room 304, Washington, DC.

Re: Bill S. 2097

DEAR SENATOR UDALL: On behalf of the African American Civil War Memorial, I am concerned anytime a memorial which was raised up for the sole purpose of honoring a specific group brave and honorable American soldiers is threatened with any change that would dilute it's solemn purpose.

Re-dedicating the District of Columbia World War I Memorial to include veteran's of the 50 States with voting congressional representation, World War I veterans diverts attention away from the original, intended concept, which was honoring their brave, fallen of the District of Columbia.

Perhaps more importantly though, the dangerous precedent set by this piece of legislation threatens the status of many other memorials that by deliberate design are meant to honor specific groups. Once such memorial is The African American Civil War Memorial located in D.C.'s Shaw Community on U Street, N.W. This memorial proudly honors the lives of African American soldiers that fought in the Civil War, but were soon forgotten. If you pass this bill, I fear that later on some group might come along and decide that Washington lacked a comprehensive Civil War memorial and demand we rededicate our memorial as the African-American and Caucasian's-Also Civil War Memorial.

It is my request that you do not allow the only existing memorial for the soldiers of the District of Columbia, who, unlike the soldiers from the other States, died without a voting representative in Congress, to be altered and to honor the legacy of past Washingtonians that toiled to create a legacy for their soldiers.

Regards,

DR. FRANK SMITH,
Founding Director.

STATEMENT OF PAUL STRAUSS, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
ON S. 2097

Chairman Udall, Ranking Member Burr, and others on the Subcommittee, as an elected United States Senator for the District of Columbia, I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony for the record regarding my opposition to Bill S. 2097, otherwise known as the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act. I am honored to appear here today on behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia both past and present.

The re-authorization to re-dedicate the District of Columbia World War I Memorial is yet a further diminution to the dignity of an already disenfranchised people. This memorial was dedicated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of November 1931, 13 years to the date of the Armistice. For over 78 years, it has stood proud and serene as the only memorial to the brave men and women from the Nation's Capital who, along with other brave Americans, fought and died for their country. However, unlike those other brave Americans, DC's "Doughboys" fought and died without anyone in the Congress of the United States ever being able to cast a vote to declare the war which took their lives.

Although well intentioned, Bill S. 2097, is instead a further insult to the already underrepresented people of the District of Columbia. Re-dedicating the District of Columbia World War I Memorial as the National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial, while noble in its intention to commemorate the lives of the Americans that fought and died in WWI, in reality only takes away the one and only memorial erected to specially commemorate DC's members of the armed forces. Each of the 499 names inscribed on this memorial all died without a vote for a country who would not give them the same democratic rights their fellow soldiers enjoyed. Currently the memorial stands not just as a symbol of the legacy of the men and women that died in WWI, but also as a symbol of the spirit and patriotism of the unrepresented and vote-less citizens of the District of Columbia.

Neither this bill, nor this hearing today is about the great injustices that come from DC's lack of Statehood. It is, however, a fitting and appropriate opportunity to remind Americans that the District of Columbia provided more soldiers to the Great War than ten states and territories and according to Star articles published after the war, 26,000 DC men and women total served in the war, of which 535 gave their lives. Following the war, a memorial commission, comprised of Washington citizens, was formed to mobilize a campaign for the memorial and it was an Act of Congress in 1924 that led to the authorization of the District of Columbia War Memorial on June 7 that same year.

It was not on a whim or oversight that this memorial was dedicated only to the District of Columbia's fallen soldiers. In fact, the very history of the memorial points to the rationality that the memorial continues on as a District of Columbia World War I Memorial. From the locally raised funds that were raised to erect the memorial to the local residents that helped design and build it; the District of Columbia was the heart and soul of this memorial.

- The lead architect was local, DC based architect, Frederick H. Booke
- Then president of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, Harry King insisted that, "Construction of the war memorial by out-of-town agencies would violate the principle and do injustice to the people of our city." In that spirit, a local construction company, James Baird Co., was chosen as the contractor.
- At the time, it was even encouraged for individual states to honor their fallen and an American Legion executive committeeman for D.C. spoke out against D.C.'s lack of a memorial, "Washington lags behind every State in the Union in expressing its appreciation of the services of its sons and daughter who 'went to war'."
- The Star, a local paper at the time, reported in July 1926 on the WWI Memorial commission's stated purpose of the memorial, "The memorial, which, as the great bridge across the Potomac shall speak a Nation's remembrance for her defenders shall speak our own more intimate gratitude to those more intimately bound to us; is to be built by subscription from the people of Washington. . . It will stand through the years as the expression of a city's pride in the men who fought in its behalf."

Furthermore, I am concerned about the misguided education of some of my fellow District Memorial enthusiasts that have thrown their support behind this Bill with the false impression that its approval is necessary to pay for the refurbishment of the memorial. A staff member of the Council of the District of Columbia told me that the support for this bill was based on the belief that this legislation would fund the needed repairs. He was unaware that in the recently approved American Recov-

ery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, money has been already allocated to refurbish this memorial with the stimulus money presented to the National Parks and Services to the tune of \$7.3 million dollars. I am pleased to note that in her statement today, Katherine Stevenson, the Obama Administration's representative, also made note of these funds, and reiterated the Department of Interior's commitment to the monument's complete refurbishment.

The mere geographic location of the memorial, on the National Mall is not reason enough to re-dedicate the memorial's status. DC's memorial was erected and dedicated before the other wars for which the additional memorials now exist. Additionally, aside from the question as to how best to commemorate the fallen of this war, is the larger question of the preserving our great national mall for future generations. It must remain more than a collection of multiple monuments to the armed conflicts of the 20th Century.

As a D.C. resident, I reject the notion that only one part of our Nation's Capitol is appropriate to commemorate our honored veterans. One particularly appropriate and poignant monument to brave American veterans lies approximately 20 blocks to the north of our mall. The African-American Civil War memorial located in the historic Shaw community is one exceptional example of how the brave veterans of our tragic Civil War are honored with a much dignity and sincerity as any soldier commemorated on the mall.

This unique and special purpose memorial shows us that not only can we honor veterans with equal dignity both on and off the mall, but it offers a cautionary warning as well. The dangerous precedent set by this piece of legislation threatens the status of many other memorials that by deliberate design are meant to honor specific groups. In addition to the overlooked African-Americans who fought in the Civil War, many other ethnic groups also made great sacrifices. Irish-Americans in particular contributed heavily to the Union's war efforts. If you pass this bill, what will we say to those advocates who might later on come along and decide that Washington DC lacks a comprehensive enough Civil War commemoration? Would they site the precedent of this bill and later demand we rededicate that memorial as the "African-American and Irish-Americans also Civil War Memorial." What would we tell advocates of other victims of genocide when they demand their share of exhibit space at the US Holocaust Memorial?

A memorial to commemorate all of the American lives lost during WWI is certainly appropriate. I would happily support this effort but not at the cost of diminishing the legacy of the late World War One veterans of the District of Columbia. I would be proud to offer my support and the full cooperation of my office to help identify an appropriate location in our great District of Columbia that would both honor all of our nation's World War One veterans appropriately.

I would ask that this Committee hold the record of this hearing open for some number of days so that I can include some letters from my Constituent's to whom the memorial has special significance. In closing, let me thank, Ms. Jenna A. Kohler, my Legislative Assistant, for her help in the preparation of this statement.

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION * THE CONSERVATION FUND *
 JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE * NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
 ASSOCIATION * NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

December 1, 2009.

Hon. JOHN BARRASSO,
 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BARRASSO: On behalf of our organizations, we write to express our support for your legislation (S. 2722) to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, located near Cody, Wyoming. We greatly appreciate Senator Enzi also cosponsoring the legislation and Congresswoman Lummis introducing companion legislation in the House.

During World War II, the U.S. government incarcerated over 14,000 Japanese Americans at the Heart Mountain site over its three year period of existence.

Today, the site features important historic resources. In 2006, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the site as a National Historic Landmark and the State of Wyoming has additionally named the location as a Wyoming Heritage Site. The site retains a significant degree of physical and historic integrity and still has a number of buildings surviving in the original placement. The site is additionally significant for its association with U.S. military history and U.S. constitutional law, and for its association with Japanese American social history.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center opened on August 11, 1942 and operated for 39 months, closing on November 10, 1945. At its peak, Heart Mountain con-

tained 10,767 Japanese Americans from California, Washington and Oregon, two-thirds of whom were United States citizens. As one of only ten such camps in seven mostly western states, the center housed Japanese Americans removed from the West Coast under the authority of Presidential Executive Order 9066. Although not charged with any crimes and without benefit of judicial hearings, Japanese Americans as a group were uprooted from their homes and businesses and taken under armed guard for detention in a system of assembly and relocation centers.

Your legislation would provide the National Park Service with the authority to engage the public in an important dialogue about the future of the site and to outline various options to conserve and manage the site's important historic resources. Your bill will enable local stakeholders to develop a vision for the long term management of the site and provide additional information for you, Congress and the public at large on future options to realize the full educational potential of the Heart Mountain site.

We appreciate your strong support for conserving our nation's rich and diverse heritage and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

SHIRLEY HIGUCHI, BOARD CHAIR,
DAVID REETZ, PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation.

FLOYD MORI, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
Japanese American Citizens League.

DANIEL SAKURA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS,
The Conservation Fund.

BARBARA PAHL, DIRECTOR, MOUNTAIN PLAINS OFFICE,
National Trust for Historic Preservation.

SHARON MADER, GRAND TETON PROGRAM MANAGER,
National Parks Conservation Association.

HILL & KNOWLTON,
November 25, 2009.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UDALL: Please accept this letter as my support for legislation (S. 2722) to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, located near Cody, Wyoming.

As you know, I was interned there with my family during World War II so the site has special significance to me. But in addition, it is considered to be an important historic site and in 2006 the U. S. Department of Interior designated the site as a National Historic Landmark. It has also been named a Wyoming Heritage Site.

This important legislation would provide the National Park Service with the authority to engage the public in an important dialogue about the future of the site and to outline various options to conserve and manage the site's important historic resources.

Being such a nationally significant site, this Study will enable stakeholders to develop a vision for the long term management of the site and to realize the full educational potential of the historic resource.

America has come a long ways in acknowledging the injustices of this period, but it has lessons for future protections of individual liberties and freedoms that must not be forgotten. You have my strong support for conducting this critically needed study.

Sincerely,

NORMAN Y. MINETA,
Vice Chairman.

NATIONAL MALL LIBERTY FUND D.C.
December 14, 2009.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Hart Office Building, Suite SH-317, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UDALL, Thank you for conducting the hearing of December 3, 2009, on S. 2738, the National Liberty Memorial Act, introduced by Sen. Chris Dodd

and Sen. Charles Grassley. This bill authorizes a memorial to African American soldiers, patriots and liberty-seekers of the Revolutionary War. It affirms the bipartisan decision of the 100th Congress and President Ronald Reagan to designate the history of “preeminent historical and lasting significance.” This warrants praise and lasting gratitude—not re-examination by the Interior Department. The Department might wish to rethink this request.

Among 24 witnesses commenting on this identical class of persons 24 years ago, an extemporaneous remark of Rep. Parren J. Mitchell electrified a House hearing: “This memorial will remind us that, from the Revolution to Vietnam, we’ve been there fighting and dying for America.” The entire nation will have an opportunity to consider that statement in the context of a sweeping new four-hour documentary. “For Love of Liberty” will air on PBS stations in February 2010. I ask that this explanation and the endorsements provided by filmmaker Frank Martin be included in the Record.

Rep. Mitchell knew what we all knew—that a modest memorial derived from the unique status of the forerunners, strategically placed near existing and future symbols, could interact and mature with them to tell a multi-generational story about liberty and unity that transcends color and a time. His 19 words condensed nearly 200 pages of remarks that day, including my own. Through Revolution, slavery, civil war, Jim Crow, world wars and nonviolent protest “we’ve been there,” never conceding defeat and never giving up the fight to defend, protect and become “we the people.”

In the process, they established liberty in America and helped preserve the liberty of European nations that had enslaved their ancestors. Current members of the Congressional Black Caucus are among them. Mr. Martin and a cast of over 40 distinguished Americans, including Morgan Freeman, a memorial advisor 20 years ago, weave the story, from the Revolution to Iraq. This film is destined to become as mind-opening and beloved as “Roots.”

In 1988, Congress declared the “preeminent” deeds of the forgotten founders eligible for memorialization in Area 1. Secretary Donald Hodel made the recommendation in conformance with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA). President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. In 2007, the Memorial Commission confirmed the nexus between that law and the current project. Promptly, it was rejected by the past Secretary. Now, this Department has asked the Energy Committee to repeal Public Law 100-265 entirely and allow the National Park Service to reconsider the worthiness. This would expunge a legacy of the 99th and 100th Congresses, President Reagan and Secretary Hodel.

Over two decades of observations and warm associations suggest that the land managers have deep affection for this memorial. But they are reading into the CWA what is not there while ignoring an established precedent and hundreds of reaffirming books, articles and discoveries since 1985. These need no further scrutiny, consecration or hallowing by government agencies.

Before a hearing in the House is conducted on Rep. Donald Payne’s bill, H.R. 4036, the Department might consider the testimony of nearly three dozen witnesses between 1985 and 1986; the absence of any provision in the CWA that obligates Congress to approve a separate Act to declare what it has already declared in a free-standing public law; and recent letters praising “For Love of Liberty” by Sen. Carl Levin, Sen. John McCain (cosponsors with Sens. Dodd and Grassley in 1985) and filmmaker Ken Burns.

Then, I commend a remark of President George H.W. Bush while making a donation in the Oval Office during Desert Storm: “Think about how much they must have loved this country, how they believed in its dreams. It’s an astounding devotion. It’s in a league by itself.”

Moving across the president’s desk in February 2010 (Black History Month), without the worthiness of its honorees being muddled, the National Liberty Memorial Act and “For Love of Liberty,” could teach the nation a long-deferred lesson in liberty and human potential.

Sincerely,

MAURICE A. BARBOZA,
Founder.