

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1442

To authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2003

Mr. POMBO (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. MURTHA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vietnam Veterans Me-
5 morial Visitor Center Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.**

7 Public Law 96–297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 6. VISITOR CENTER.**

10 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

1 “(1) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means the
2 visitor center for the Memorial authorized by sub-
3 section (b).

4 “(2) MEMORIAL.—The term ‘Memorial’ has the
5 meaning given the term ‘Vietnam Veterans Memo-
6 rial’ in section 5(f).

7 “(3) MEMORIAL FUND.—The term ‘Memorial
8 Fund’ means the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund,
9 Inc.

10 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF CENTER.—The Memorial
13 Fund may design and construct a visitor center for the
14 Memorial to provide information to the public on the Me-
15 morial.

16 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Center—

17 “(1) shall be located—

18 “(A) above ground or underground, as de-
19 termined in accordance with chapter 89 of title
20 40, United States Code; and

21 “(B) on or adjacent to the Memorial;

22 “(2) shall be the minimum size necessary to—

23 “(A) carry out appropriate educational and
24 interpretive activities relating to the Memorial;

1 “(B) prevent interference with or en-
2 croachment on the Memorial; and

3 “(C) protect open space and visual
4 sightlines on the National Mall; and

5 “(3) shall be constructed and landscaped in a
6 manner that is consistent with the Memorial and the
7 National Mall.

8 “(d) DESIGN.—The Commission on Fine Arts shall
9 approve a final design for the Center not later than 1 year
10 after the date of the enactment of this section.

11 “(e) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to an agreement
13 entered into under paragraph (2), the Center shall
14 be operated and maintained by the Secretary.

15 “(2) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall offer to
16 enter into an agreement with the Memorial Fund for
17 the operation and maintenance of the Center that
18 provides the following:

19 “(A) The Memorial Fund shall lease the
20 Center from the Secretary for a term of 20
21 years. The lease may be renewed thereafter for
22 periods of 20 years.

23 “(B) During the term of a lease under
24 subparagraph (A), the Memorial Fund—

1 “(i) shall be responsible for maintain-
2 ing exhibits at the Center; and

3 “(ii) shall share other maintenance re-
4 sponsibilities for the Center with the Sec-
5 retary.

6 “(C) The Secretary shall submit to the
7 Committee on Resources of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and
9 Natural Resources of the Senate—

10 “(i) a copy of any lease entered into
11 or renewed under subparagraph (A); and

12 “(ii) not less than once every 7 years,
13 an assessment by the Secretary on the
14 need for and use of the Center.

15 “(3) DONATION FOR PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE
16 AND PRESERVATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
17 (1), section 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code,
18 shall apply to the Memorial Fund.

19 “(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graph (2), chapter 89 of title 40, United States
22 Code, shall apply to the Center.

23 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Section 8908(b)(1) of title
24 40, United States Code, shall not apply to the Cen-
25 ter.

1 “(g) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—No
2 Federal funds shall be used for the planning, design, con-
3 struction, operation, or maintenance of the Center.”.

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