

# Union Calendar No. 336

108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3936

**[Report No. 108-574, Part I]**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SKELTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JUNE 25, 2004

Additional sponsors: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FILNER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. RENZI, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. HARRIS

JUNE 25, 2004

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JUNE 25, 2004

Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than June 25, 2004

JUNE 25, 2004

The Committee on Armed Services discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF UNITED STATES COURT**  
4 **OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.**

5       Section 7255 of title 38, United States Code, is  
6 amended by striking “District of Columbia” and inserting  
7 “Washington, D.C., metropolitan area”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING**  
9 **NEW VETERANS COURTHOUSE AND JUSTICE**  
10 **CENTER.**

11       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
12 ings:

1           (1) Every Article I court of the United States  
2 other than the United States Court of Appeals for  
3 Veterans Claims is located in a dedicated court-  
4 house.

5           (2) The United States Court of Appeals for  
6 Veterans Claims has since its creation in 1988 been  
7 located in a commercial office building in the Dis-  
8 trict of Columbia.

9           (3) That court should be housed in a dedicated  
10 courthouse, as are all other Article I courts.

11           (4) A dedicated courthouse for that court con-  
12 stituting a Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center  
13 would express the gratitude and respect of the Na-  
14 tion for the sacrifices of those serving and those who  
15 have served in the Armed Forces, and their families.

16           (5) Location of such a courthouse and judicial  
17 center in an area proximate to the Pentagon, Arling-  
18 ton National Cemetery, and the Air Force Memorial  
19 (as planned) in Arlington, Virginia would be sym-  
20 bologically significant of the high esteem that the Na-  
21 tion holds for its veterans.

22           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
23 gress that—

1           (1) a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Jus-  
2           tice Center should be provided for the United States  
3           Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and

4           (2) the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation  
5           with the United States Court of Appeals for Vet-  
6           erans Claims, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and  
7           the Administrator of General Services, should deter-  
8           mine the feasibility of locating such a Veterans  
9           Courthouse and Justice Center at an appropriate  
10          site owned by the United States that is part of or  
11          proximate to the Pentagon Reservation in Arlington,  
12          Virginia.

13          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
14          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,  
15          the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Administrator  
16          of General Services shall submit to the Committees on  
17          Veterans' Affairs and the Committees on Armed Services  
18          of the Senate and House of Representatives a joint report  
19          on the feasibility of locating a new Veterans Courthouse  
20          and Justice Center at an appropriate site owned by the  
21          United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon  
22          Reservation in Arlington, Virginia.



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