

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7243

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I 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. DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AT**
4 **THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN**
5 **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS THE NATIONAL**
6 **WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) Although more than 4,000,000 Americans
10 served in World War I, there is no nationally recog-

1 nized memorial honoring the service of such Ameri-
2 cans in that war.

3 (2) In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Mis-
4 souri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised
5 more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial
6 to the service of Americans in World War I. That
7 fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by
8 any other city in the United States irrespective of
9 population and reflected the passion of public opin-
10 ion about World War I, which had so recently ended.

11 (3) Following the drive, a national architectural
12 competition was held by the American Institute of
13 Architects for designs for a memorial to the service
14 of Americans in World War I, and the competition
15 yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren
16 Magonigle.

17 (4) On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000
18 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the
19 Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. That
20 dedication marked the only time in history that the
21 five allied military leaders present, Lieutenant Gen-
22 eral Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando
23 Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France,
24 General John J. Pershing of the United States, and

1 Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were to-
2 gether at one place.

3 (5) General Pershing, a native of Missouri and
4 the commander of the American Expeditionary
5 Forces in World War I, noted at the November 1,
6 1921, dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas City,
7 Missouri, are deeply proud of the beautiful memo-
8 rial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant
9 achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons
10 and daughters who served in our country’s armed
11 forces during the World War. It symbolized their
12 grateful appreciation of duty well done, and appre-
13 ciation which I share, because I know so well how
14 richly it is merited”.

15 (6) During an Armistice Day ceremony in
16 1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the begin-
17 ning of a three-year construction project for the Lib-
18 erty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone of the
19 memorial.

20 (7) The 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has
21 an inscription that reads “In Honor of Those Who
22 Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and
23 Our Country” as well as four stone “Guardian Spir-
24 its” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and
25 sacrifice, which rise above the observation deck,

1 making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all
2 who served in World War I.

3 (8) During a rededication for the Liberty Me-
4 morial in 1961, World War I veterans and former
5 Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-
6 hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-
7 minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the
8 progress that followed.

9 (9) The 106th Congress recognized the Liberty
10 Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.

11 (10) The 108th Congress designated the mu-
12 seum at the base of the Liberty Memorial as “Amer-
13 ica’s National World War I Museum”.

14 (11) The National World War I Museum is the
15 only public museum in the United States specifically
16 dedicated to the history of World War I.

17 (12) The National World War I Museum is
18 known throughout the world as a major center of
19 World War I remembrance.

20 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Liberty Memorial at the Na-
21 tional World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is
22 hereby designated as the “National World War I Memo-
23 rial”.

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