

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1500

To redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Robert Emmet Park
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Robert Emmet was one of Ireland’s most
2 prominent historical figures, having led an effort to
3 secure Irish independence in 1803.

4 (2) Although Emmet’s efforts initially failed,
5 they succeeded in inspiring new generations of Irish
6 men and women to struggle for independence.

7 (3) For his efforts to gain Irish independence,
8 Emmet was found guilty of treason and sentenced to
9 death by hanging.

10 (4) Robert Emmet’s “Speech from the Dock”
11 motivated many of the efforts that led to an inde-
12 pendent Ireland following 1916’s Easter Rising;
13 (Emmet famously said that “To [Ireland] I sac-
14 rificed every selfish, every lasting sentiment . . . I
15 wished to place her independence beyond the reach
16 of any power of earth . . . to procure for my coun-
17 try the guarantee which Washington procured for
18 America . . . to exalt her to that proud station in
19 the world.”). Emmet was strongly influenced by
20 American democracy and the American Revolution.

21 (5) Emmet had family members similarly ad-
22 miring of the United States and dedicated to the
23 cause of Irish independence, including his brother
24 Thomas Addis Emmet who went on to become a
25 prominent Attorney General of New York.

1 (6) Emmet has been revered by generations of
2 Irish-Americans for his leadership, courage, and sac-
3 rifice.

4 (7) Fifty years ago on April 22, 1966, the Rob-
5 ert Emmet Statue was dedicated on a small parcel
6 of National Park Service land (reservation 302) at
7 the corner of 24th Street NW and Massachusetts
8 Avenue NW in Washington, DC.

9 (8) Robert Emmet’s statue is the central fea-
10 ture of reservation 302.

11 (9) Many leading Members of Congress, includ-
12 ing Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and
13 Senators Everett Dirksen and Mike Mansfield served
14 on the Robert Emmet Statue Dedication Committee.

15 (10) Other members of that committee and par-
16 ticipants in the dedication ceremony included Sec-
17 retary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Representative
18 Michael Kirwan, Ambassador of Ireland William P.
19 Fay, and Rector of St. Matthews Cathedral John K.
20 Cartwright.

21 **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF ROBERT EMMET PARK.**

22 (a) REDESIGNATION.—The small triangular property
23 designated by the National Park Service as reservation
24 302, shall be known as “Robert Emmet Park”.

1 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
2 tion, document, record, map, paper, or other record of the
3 United States to the property referred to in subsection (a)
4 is deemed to be a reference to “Robert Emmet Park”.

5 (c) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior may
6 post signs on or near Robert Emmet Park that include
7 one or more of the following:

8 (1) Information on Robert Emmet, his con-
9 tribution to Irish Independence, and his respect for
10 the United States and the American Revolution.

11 (2) Information on the history of the statue of
12 Robert Emmet located in Robert Emmet Park.

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