

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 841

To designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, 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 “National Veterans Me-
5 morial and Museum Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Veterans Memorial and Museum is a
9 civic landmark and cultural institution being built in

1 Columbus, Ohio, to honor, connect, inspire, and edu-
2 cate all people of the United States about the service
3 and sacrifice of more than 40,000,000 veterans, over
4 half of whom are living today, and 1,100,000 fallen
5 who have bravely defended the freedoms enjoyed by
6 all citizens of the United States of America.

7 (2) The Veterans Memorial and Museum is the
8 only public museum of its kind that exists for the
9 exclusive purpose of interpreting the collective expe-
10 riences of veterans of the United States of America
11 across all eras, conflicts, and branches of the mili-
12 tary.

13 (3) The Veterans Memorial and Museum would
14 attract and educate a diverse group of audiences
15 from across the country through its visitor-centered,
16 interactive, and participatory exhibits.

17 (4) The Veterans Memorial and Museum would
18 work to help bridge the military-civilian gap that has
19 increasingly isolated veterans and their families and
20 often made the journey from civilian to soldier back
21 to civilian more difficult to navigate.

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

24 (1) the Veterans Memorial and Museum will
25 preserve the stories and legacy of service so that

1 visitors can conduct a critical evaluation of the his-
 2 tory and evolution of our country as seen through
 3 the lens of the military experience;

4 (2) the Veterans Memorial and Museum will in-
 5 spire civilians to serve their communities and coun-
 6 try as active and engaged citizens;

7 (3) the Veterans Memorial and Museum will be
 8 a beacon for all veterans, veteran families, and civil-
 9 ians of this country to ensure that the sacrifices of
 10 America’s service men and women are a guarantee
 11 to posterity;

12 (4) the State of Ohio, Franklin County, and
 13 many more private individuals, foundations, and cor-
 14 porations have contributed millions of dollars to de-
 15 sign and construct this national destination, which
 16 broke ground in December 2015; and

17 (5) it is fitting and proper to refer to the Vet-
 18 erans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as
 19 the “National Veterans Memorial and Museum”.

20 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL**
 21 **AND MUSEUM.**

22 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Veterans Memorial and Mu-
 23 seum is hereby designated as the “National Veterans Me-
 24 morial and Museum”.

1 (b) VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “Veterans Memorial
3 and Museum” means the memorial and museum that is,
4 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, being con-
5 structed on an approximately 7-acre area on West Broad
6 Street, Columbus, Ohio, bounded by the Scioto River and
7 the Scioto Greenway.

○