

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 4328

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants for the rehabilitation of World War I memorials.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Ms. Gabbard (for herself, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hanabusa, Ms. Jayapal, and Mr. Poe of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants for the rehabilitation of World War I memorials.

- 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 cited as the "Honoring World War I
- 5 Memorials Act of 2017".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.
- 7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
- 8 ings:
- 9 (1) From 2014 through 2018, the United
- 10 States and nations around the world mark the cen-

- tennial of World War I, including the entry of the
 United States into the war in April 1917.
- 3 (2) The United States entry into the war 4 marked the first time in the history of the United 5 States that American soldiers went abroad in de-6 fense of liberty against foreign aggression and it 7 marked the true beginning of the "American Cen-8 tury".
 - (3) More than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War I and the United States suffered 375,000 casualties, including 116,516 deaths.
 - (4) In 2013, the World War I Centennial Commission Act was signed into law with a stated goal of ensuring "a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I".
 - (5) Part of the Centennial Commission's stated mission is to "bring attention to the thousands of World War I memorials in communities across the country that honor Americans who served in the war".
 - (6) The Centennial Commission has found that "across the country there are local World War I memorials in thousands of cities and towns that are forgotten and in disrepair".

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1	(7) The Centennial Commission has found suf-
2	ficient cause to establish a matching grant program
3	in recognition of the importance of rehabilitating
4	World War I memorials. However, the grant amount
5	of \$2,000 is too low for the needs of many memo-
6	rials.
7	(8) The Centennial Commission recognizes that
8	restoring World War I memorials honors those who
9	served and raises awareness of this momentous event
10	in the Nation's history.
11	SEC. 3. WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL REHABILITATION GRANT
12	PROGRAM.
13	(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Veterans
14	Affairs shall make grants to eligible entities for the pur-
15	pose of rehabilitating World War I memorials.
16	(b) Eligible Entities.—To be eligible for a grant
17	under this section, an entity shall—
18	(1) be a nonprofit organization or a State or
19	local government entity that owns or manages a
20	World War I memorial; and
21	(2) submit to the Secretary an application con-
22	taining such information and assurances as the Sec-
23	retary may require, including a description of the re-
24	habilitation project for which the entity seeks a
25	grant under this section.

- 1 (c) Selection of Grant Recipients.—In selecting
- 2 recipients of grants under this section, the Secretary shall
- 3 prioritize, in descending order, the following:
- 4 (1) Entities seeking grants to rehabilitate
- 5 World War I memorials listed on the National Reg-
- 6 ister of Historic Places.
- 7 (2) Entities seeking grants to rehabilitate
- 8 World War I memorials listed on a State register of
- 9 historic places.
- 10 (d) Use of Funds.—The recipient of a grant under
- 11 this section shall use the grant to rehabilitate a World
- 12 War I memorial.
- 13 (e) Amount of Grant.—Each grant provided under
- 14 this section shall be in an amount that does not exceed
- 15 \$15,000,000, and 50 percent of the cost of the rehabilita-
- 16 tion project described in the application submitted by the
- 17 eligible entity to which the grant is provided.
- 18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 19 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
- 20 Affairs \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 to make grants
- 21 under this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to
- 22 such authorization of appropriations shall remain available
- 23 until expended.
- 24 (g) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) The term "rehabilitate" means, with respect to a memorial, to repair, reconstruct, restore, refurbish, or clean up the memorial consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 C.F.R. 68) and applicable guidelines.

(2) The term "World War I memorial" means a memorial that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines is dedicated to the memory of those who served in World War I, and does not include any memorial to members of the Armed Forces serving in multiple wars.

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