

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6353

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2022

Ms. WILD (for herself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, 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 Service Ani-
5 mals Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the National Service Animals Monument
2 Corporation’s mission is to honor and recognize the
3 broad scope of service animals, including working
4 animals, through the creation of a memorial to edu-
5 cate the public of the contributions by service ani-
6 mals and the human-animal bond between service
7 animals and their handlers, whether a person with
8 a disability, a law enforcement officer, military per-
9 sonnel, or other handler;

10 (2) formalized service animal work began in
11 1929 when the Eustice School in New Jersey estab-
12 lished the first guide-dog school;

13 (3) the purple poppy is the international symbol
14 for the service and sacrifice of service animals;

15 (4) on February 24 of each year, National
16 Service Animals Day is celebrated in the United
17 States and throughout the world;

18 (5) service and working animals, such as dogs,
19 horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins,
20 sea lions, and other animals, have worked alongside
21 and supported humans throughout history and have
22 created strong human-animal bonds, including—

23 (A) during the Revolutionary War, horses
24 served in combat carrying soldiers, as well as
25 transporting the wounded and critical supplies;

(B) during World War I and World War

II—

(i) homing pigeons served as critical messengers with tiny message capsules attached to their legs that were used to send communications that saved the lives of countless soldiers, resulting in many pigeons becoming the target of enemy fire; and

(ii) donkeys and mules transported food, supplies, and wounded servicemembers; and

(C) during the war in Afghanistan—

(i) military working dogs safeguarded the lives of thousands of servicemen by clearing areas of improvised explosion devices; and

(ii) in one example, Lucca, a German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois service dog, was employed by the United States Marine Corps for 6 years and trained to detect explosives, deploying twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, supporting over 400 missions without a single human fatality, and ultimately sustaining an injury and ampu-

1 tation in 2012 due to an improvised explo-
2 sive device while on patrol in Afghanistan;

3 (6) the bonds formed between military per-
4 sonnel and law enforcement and their working dogs
5 are so strong that they have risked their lives will-
6 ingly to save the other;

7 (7) the tasks that service dogs perform for per-
8 sons with disabilities are essential activities of daily
9 living, such as guiding people with visual impair-
10 ments, signaling sounds for those who are deaf, re-
11 trieving items for people with mobility issues, alert-
12 ing about impending cardiac episodes or seizures,
13 turning on lights, providing stability for their owner
14 while standing, and pressing elevator and accessi-
15 bility buttons;

16 (8) in addition to service animals' help with
17 functional tasks and missions, the human-animal
18 bond provides handlers the ability to live independ-
19 ently, work confidently, and socialize freely;

20 (9) shelter dogs can be trained as service ani-
21 mals;

22 (10) service animals, such as horses and dogs—

23 (A) support a variety of health and ther-
24 apy services, including for people with autism,

1 schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and bipolar
2 disorder; and

3 (B) specifically, can support
4 servicemembers and veterans who experience
5 traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic
6 stress disorder;

7 (11) search and rescue dogs working with civil-
8 ian or law enforcement handlers make United States
9 communities and the Nation safer when they assist
10 with the rescue of lost children, seniors, and other
11 at-risk individuals, including in the event of natural
12 or manmade disasters, for example—

13 (A) service animals have supported search
14 and rescue missions after terrorist attacks, in-
15 cluding September 11 and the Oklahoma City
16 bombing; and

17 (B) service animals have supported local
18 search and rescue missions involving lost chil-
19 dren, such as—

20 (i) the service dog Mercy, a blood-
21 hound with the Lee County, Florida, Sher-
22 iff's department, who tracked a 12-year-old
23 girl for more than a half mile through
24 thick woods after she went missing during
25 Tropical Storm Elsa in July 2021; and

1 (ii) the service dog Gandalf, trained
2 by the South Carolina Search and Rescue
3 Dog Association, who found a 12-year-old
4 boy who had vanished from a campsite in
5 the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Caro-
6 lina in March 2019;

7 (12) the extraordinary abilities of service ani-
8 mals, including smell, sensing, hearing, eyesight, and
9 empathy, make them uniquely capable of helping hu-
10 mans, including by assisting with the identification
11 of illegal drugs, detecting an impending seizure,
12 hearing a person buried beneath rubble, or seeing an
13 expensive or vital tool dropped by a naval diver;

14 (13) service animals provide well-documented
15 value to human health, safety, and security; and

16 (14) the National Service Animals Memorial
17 will represent a place of pride, introspection, and
18 education to pay tribute to the contributions and
19 sacrifices made by all service animals and their han-
20 dlers throughout history.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE**
22 **WORK.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Service Animals
24 Monument Corporation (referred to in this section as the
25 “Corporation”) may establish a commemorative work on

1 Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs
2 to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service
3 animals and handlers of service animals in the United
4 States.

5 (b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMO-
6 RATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemora-
7 tive work under this section shall be in accordance with
8 chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly
9 known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

10 (c) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL
11 FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be
13 used to pay any expense of the establishment of the
14 commemorative work under this section.

15 (2) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL SERV-
16 ICE ANIMALS MONUMENT CORPORATION.—The Cor-
17 poration shall be solely responsible for the accept-
18 ance of contributions for, and the payment of the ex-
19 penses of, the establishment of the commemorative
20 work under this section.

21 (d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, upon payment of all ex-
23 penses for the establishment of the commemorative
24 work under this section (including the maintenance
25 and preservation amount required by section

1 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there
2 remains a balance of funds received for the estab-
3 lishment of the commemorative work, the Corpora-
4 tion shall transmit the amount of the balance to the
5 Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account
6 provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United
7 States Code.

8 (2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If, upon
9 expiration of the authority for the commemorative
10 work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United
11 States Code, there remains a balance of funds re-
12 ceived for the establishment of the commemorative
13 work under this section, the Corporation shall trans-
14 mit the amount of the balance to a separate account
15 with the National Park Foundation for memorials,
16 to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the
17 Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in
18 accordance with the process provided in section
19 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for ac-
20 counts established under paragraph (2) or (3) of
21 section 8906(b) of such title.

○