

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1500

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Robert Emmet Park
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds as follows:

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

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

12 (3) For his efforts to gain Irish independence,
13 Emmet was found guilty of treason and sentenced to
14 death by hanging.

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

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

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

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

14 (8) Robert Emmet's statue is the central fea-
15 ture of reservation 302.

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

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

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

2 (a) REDESIGNATION.—The small triangular property
3 designated by the National Park Service as reservation
4 302, shall be known as “Robert Emmet Park”.

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

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

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

15 (2) Information on the history of the statue of
16 Robert Emmet located in Robert Emmet Park.

Passed the House of Representatives June 28, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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