

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop, Chairman
Markup Memorandum

January 29, 2016

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff -- Terry Camp x-67736
Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Mark-Up: Markup on H.R. 1475 (Rep. Sam Johnson R-TX), To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance
February 2-3, 2016 1324 Longworth HOB

H.R. 1475 (Rep. Sam Johnson, R-TX), “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015”

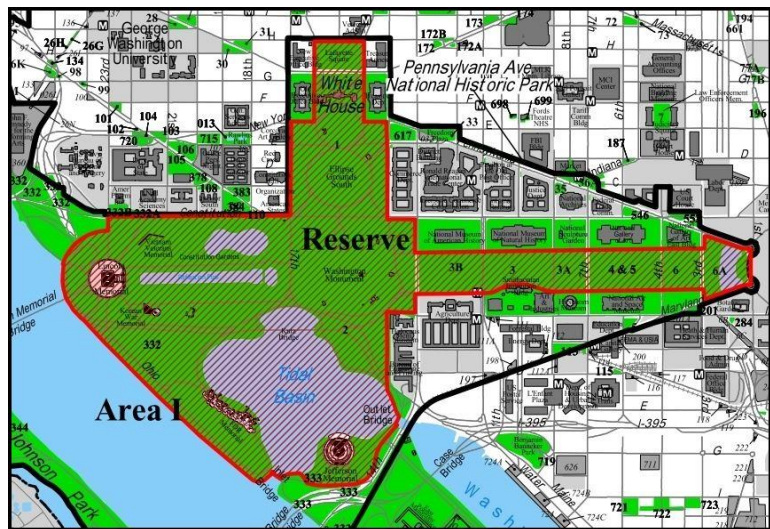
Bill Summary

H.R. 1475, introduced by Congressman Sam Johnson (R-TX-03), amends Public Law 99-572 to expand upon the original design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial by authorizing a “Wall of Remembrance” with the names of those killed or wounded in action, listed as missing, or prisoners of war during the Korean War. It will also list the number of Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces and other nations of the United Nations Command who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners of war.

Cosponsors: 264 Members from both sides of the aisle

Background

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The Memorial falls within an area known as the Reserve. Congress created the Reserve in November 2003, by P.L. 108-126, to prohibit the addition of future memorials within the area.

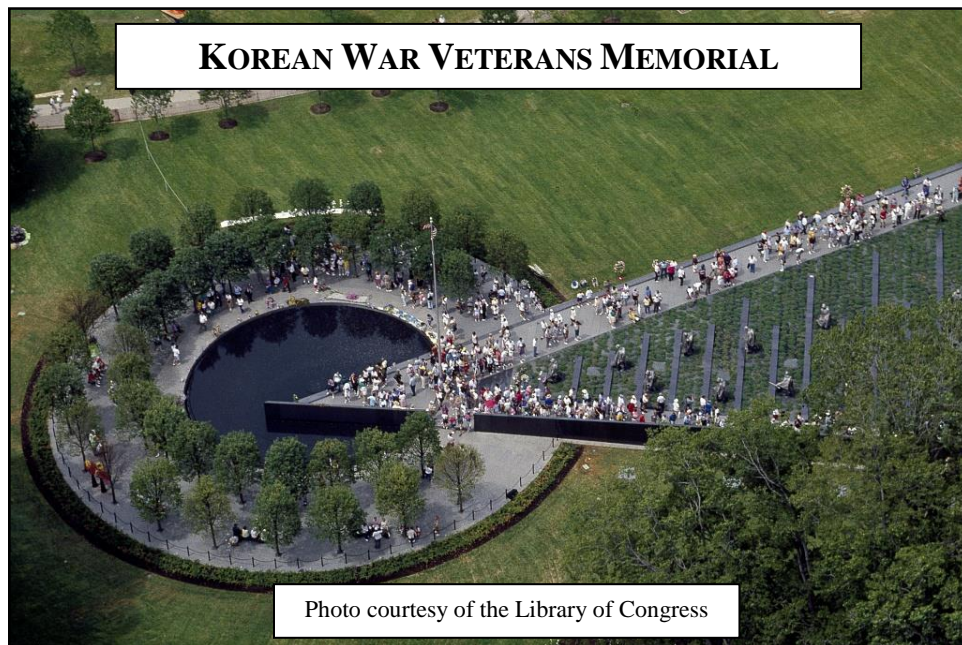


Map Number 869-86501 - US National Park Service - 24 June 2003

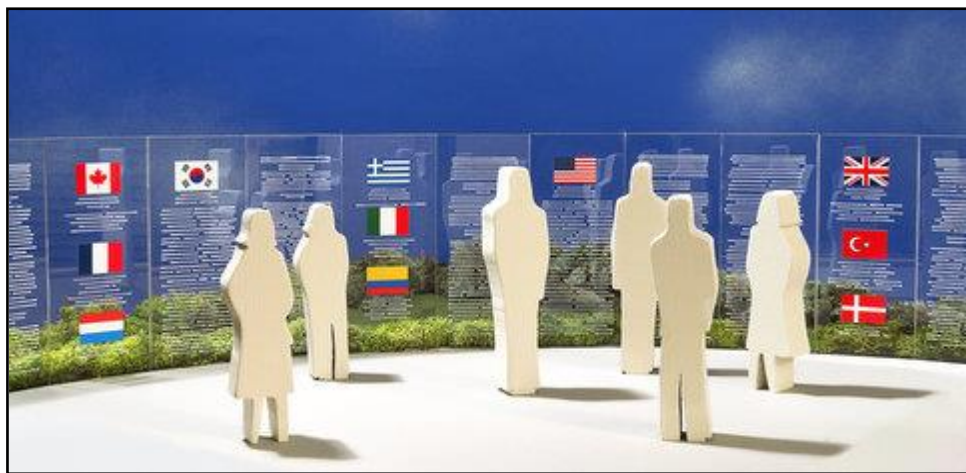
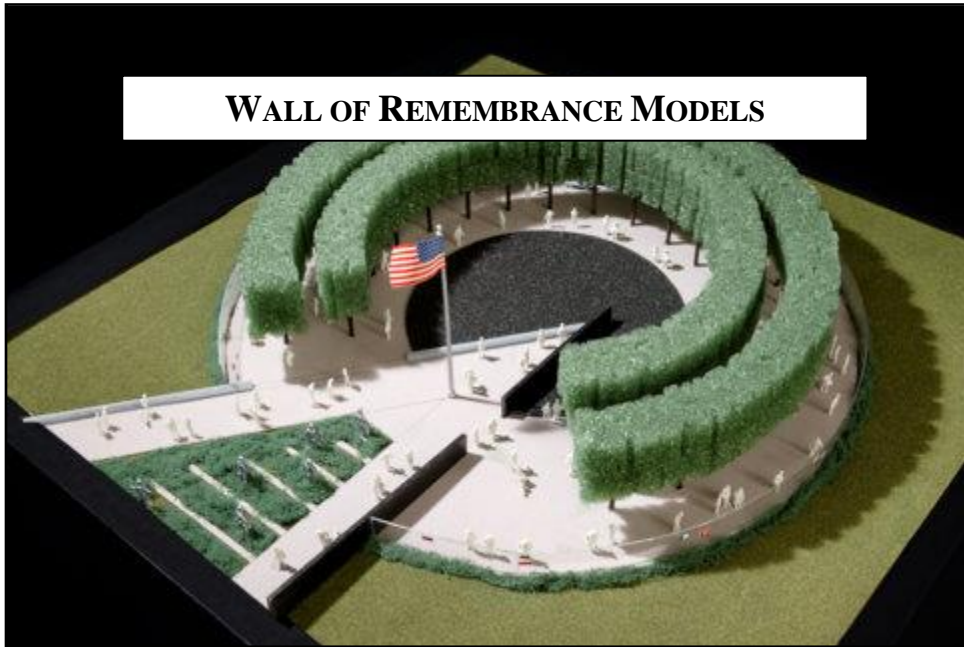
The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of 5.8 million Americans world-wide who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. The Memorial also recognizes the participation of the 22 nations who served as United Nations contributors. During the Korean War's duration from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died world-wide. Of these, 8,200 are listed as missing in action, lost or buried at sea. An additional 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

H.R. 1475 authorizes the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation to add a Wall of Remembrance with the names of those killed or wounded in action, listed as missing, or prisoners of war. It would also list the number of Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces and other United Nations Command who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners. The Wall of Remembrance authorized by H.R. 1475 would be an unbroken semi-circle of glass panels seven feet high, allowing full visibility to the rest of the Mall. The Wall of Remembrance will be financed solely through non-governmental funds.

H.R. 1475 presently enjoys 264 bipartisan cosponsors. Representative Sam Johnson, the bill's sponsor, is one of three Korean War Veterans remaining in the House. Representatives Charles Rangel and John Conyers, Jr., the other two Korean War Veterans serving in the House, are both original cosponsors of H.R. 1475. A Senate companion bill has been introduced as S. 1982 by Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD).



WALL OF REMEMBRANCE MODELS



Model images courtesy of William Lecky/ Lecky Design Studio

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration opposes this bill.

Amendments

Federal Lands Subcommittee Chairman, Tom McClintock (R-CA-4), will offer a technical amendment to H.R. 1475. In its present form, the bill authorizes the Wall of Remembrance to list the names of all “members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were **killed in action** in the Korean War.” Chairman McClintock’s amendment changes this language to state, “members of the Armed Forces of the United States who **died in-theatre** in the Korean War.” This amendment ensures that brave Americans who died from other causes such as exposure to the cold, sickness, drowning, etc. will be recognized on the Wall of Remembrance.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

Showing Current Law as Amended by H.R. 1475

[new text highlighted in yellow]

Public Law 99-572

SECTION 1. The American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean war, particularly those who were killed in action, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war. Such memorial shall be established in accordance with the provisions of H.R. 4378, as approved by the House of Representatives on September 29, 1986. Such memorial shall include a Wall of Remembrance, which shall be constructed without the use of Federal funds. The American Battle Monuments Commission shall request and consider design recommendations from the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. for the establishment of the Wall of Remembrance. The Wall of Remembrance shall include--

- (1) a list by name of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action in the Korean War;
- (2) the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, in regards to the Korean War--
 - (A) were wounded in action;
 - (B) are listed as missing in action; or
 - (C) were prisoners of war; and

(3) the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who, in regards to the Korean War--

- (A) were killed in action;
- (B) were wounded in action;
- (C) are listed as missing in action; or
- (D) were prisoners of war.

SEC. 2. (a) There is hereby established a Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board which shall consist of twelve veterans who served in the Korean war. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President within one hundred and twenty calendar days of enactment of this Act.

(b) The Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board shall be responsible for:

(1) recommending the site and selecting the design for the memorial, subject to the approval of the American Battle Monuments Commission and in accordance with section 7(a) of H.R. 4378, as approved by the House of Representatives on September 29, 1986; and

(2) promoting the establishment of the memorial and encouraging the donation of private funds for the construction and maintenance of the memorial.

SEC. 3. (a) The American Battle Monuments Commission shall establish the memorial with private funds except as provided in subsection (b) of this section. For the purpose of carrying out this Act, the American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to solicit and accept private contributions. The Commission is directed to establish an account into which these private funds shall be deposited and to maintain documentation of such contributions.

(b) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated:

(1) \$500,000 for site preparation, design, planning, and associated administrative costs for the establishment of the memorial; and

(2) \$500,000 for construction of the memorial, to be available only after a construction permit has been issued for the memorial.

(c) Private funds donated in excess of the cost of construction and maintenance of the memorial shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts to reimburse the United States for funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.