



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

**To:** Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members  
**From:** Subcommittee on Federal Lands Staff – Aniela Butler ([Aniela@mail.house.gov](mailto:Aniela@mail.house.gov))  
and Hannah Devereaux ([Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov](mailto:Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov)); x6-7736  
**Date:** Monday, July 14, 2025  
**Subject:** Legislative Hearing on 4 Bills

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The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on 4 bills: H.R. 1945 (Rep. Onder), “*America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark Act*”; H.R. 2290 (Rep. Dingell), “*World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act*”; H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar), “*The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act*”; and H.R. 4285 (Rep. Maloy), “*Semiquincentennial Tourism and Access to Recreation Sites Act*” or the “*STARS Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.** in room 1334 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Will Rodriguez ([Will.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Will.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov)) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

## **I. KEY MESSAGES**

- The legislation featured in today’s hearing helps support President Trump’s Executive Order on “Celebrating America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday” and the broader America250 effort by expanding access to our national parks and recognizing key historical figures in American history.
- The “STARS Act” designates September 17, 2026, that year’s Constitution Day, as a fee-free day at our national parks, inviting all Americans to celebrate our country in areas commonly known as “America’s Best Idea.”
- The remaining bills honor key figures and stories in American history—from John Adams and Winston Churchill to the women who helped win WWII on the home front—with new memorials and landmark recognition.
- Together, these proposals promote public access and highlight what makes our country great, all without costing taxpayers money or adding to the federal estate.

## II. WITNESSES

### Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

### Panel II (Outside Experts):

- **Mr. Timothy Riley**, Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout Director and Chief Curator, America's National Churchill Museum, Fulton, MO [H.R. 1945]
- **Ms. Jackie Cushman**, Chair, Adams Memorial Commission, Atlanta, GA [H.R. 2306]
- **Ms. Natalie Randall**, Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism and Film Commission, Salt Lake City, UT [H.R. 4285]
- **Ms. Raya Kenney**, Executive Director, WWII Women's Memorial Foundation, Washington, D.C. [H.R. 2290] [Minority Witness]

## III. BACKGROUND

### H.R. 1945 (Rep. Onder), "America's National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark Act"

H.R. 1945 designates America's National Churchill Museum (Museum) at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, as a National Historic Landmark. The Museum honors the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill and marks the site of his landmark 1946 speech, "The Sinews of Peace".<sup>1</sup> In that address, Churchill famously declared that "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent," a moment widely regarded as pivotal to the early stages of the Cold War.<sup>2</sup> One of the most influential leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Winston Churchill twice served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and guided Britain through World War II.<sup>3</sup> In the postwar era, he emerged as a key voice in shaping the Western alliance and warning against Soviet aggression, most notably through his 1946 address in Fulton, Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

The Museum includes the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, which was relocated from London, England, and reconstructed, stone by stone, in the 1960s to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Churchill's address.<sup>5</sup> In 2009, Congress recognized the Museum as the nation's first official tribute to Churchill.<sup>6</sup> Today, the Museum serves as a hub for leadership education, public engagement, and cultural enrichment. H.R. 1945 would formalize the Museum's historical and educational significance and authorize Westminster College to enter into cooperative agreements for public programming. Additionally, H.R. 1945 authorizes a special resource study of the site. H.R. 1945 supports continued stewardship of this nationally significant site and affirms its enduring role in honoring Churchill's legacy.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Sinews of Peace ('Iron Curtain Speech')," International Churchill Society, <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1946-1963-elder-statesman/the-sinews-of-peace/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> "Winston Churchill," Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Winston-Churchill>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> "About," America's National Churchill Museum, <https://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/about-the-winston-churchill-museum.html>.

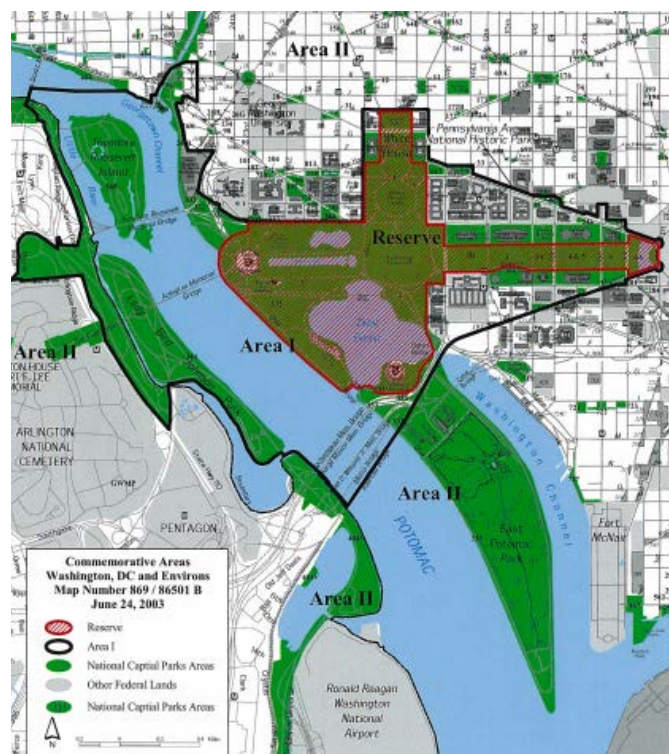
<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

## H.R. 2290 (Rep. Dingell), “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act”

Under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), any new monument or memorial in the District of Columbia or the surrounding area must be approved by an Act of Congress.<sup>7</sup> Once a commemorative work is approved, a private organization will typically have seven years to raise the required funding for the work’s construction and design. The CWA also established the “Reserve”, which broadly encompasses what is known as the National Mall. The CWA found that the Reserve was “a substantially completed work of civic art” where the siting of new commemorative works should be prohibited.<sup>8</sup> Placing a new commemorative work in the Reserve, or in specified land near the Reserve (Area I), requires an additional Act of Congress. While this is somewhat rare, most recently Congress authorized a location within the Reserve for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in 2021 and the Women’s Suffrage Monument in 2025.<sup>9</sup>

In 2023, Congress authorized the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation (Foundation) to establish a commemorative work (Memorial) on federal land in Washington, D.C. or its environs honoring “the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.”<sup>10</sup> The bill required the Foundation to follow the standard legal framework established by the CWA and prohibited the use of federal funds for the commemorative work.<sup>11</sup>

During World War II, more than 18 million women, across every sector of American society, contributed to the war effort.<sup>12</sup> While the iconic image of “Rosie the Riveter” symbolized women working in industrial jobs, the broader story includes women who became welders, pilots, codebreakers, fundraisers, medical professionals, truck drivers, and community caretakers.<sup>13</sup> Their collective labor and service played a critical role in the Allied victory and permanently reshaped women’s roles in the workforce and public life.<sup>14</sup>



Commemorative Areas in Washington, D.C.

Source: National Park Service, 2003.

<sup>7</sup> 40 U.S.C. 8901-8909.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Sec. 6605, Public Law No: 117-81. Public Law No: 118-226.

<sup>10</sup> Section 702 of Division DD of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 117–328).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> “Women in World War II,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/women-in-world-war-ii.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

H.R. 2290, the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act,” authorizes the placement of the Memorial in either the Reserve or Area I. Under the CWA, this additional legislation is necessary for the commemorative work to be placed on or near the National Mall. By authorizing the placement of this Memorial in a place of prominence, H.R. 2290 affirms the national significance of women who worked on the home front and ensures that they are recognized alongside existing monuments to wartime service. H.R. 2290 is a bipartisan bill co-led by Representative Fulcher (R-ID-01). Senators Shaheen (D-NH) and Blackburn (R-TN) are leading companion legislation in the Senate.<sup>15</sup>

### H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar), “The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”

The Adams family is one of the most influential founding families in American history and made invaluable contributions to American democracy. John Adams served as the first Vice President and second President of the United States.<sup>16</sup> Abigail Adams is remembered as a prolific writer and early advocate for women’s rights and abolition.<sup>17</sup> John Quincy Adams served as Secretary of State, the sixth President, and later as a member of the House of Representatives.<sup>18</sup> Despite their significant public service, the Adams family has no memorial dedicated to them in Washington, D.C.

For more than two decades, there have been ongoing efforts to create a memorial (Adams Memorial) in the nation’s capital to honor the Adams family’s legacy. Congress first authorized the creation of such a memorial in 2001, empowering the Adams Memorial Foundation to use private funds to construct a commemorative work on federal land.<sup>19</sup> In 2002, Congress approved a location in Area I for the Adams Memorial, underscoring its significance.<sup>20</sup> Under the CWA, authorizations for constructing a commemorative work expire after seven years. While the Adams Memorial Foundation took initial steps to advance the project, including assembling leadership and exploring design options, they faced ongoing challenges related to site selection, approvals, and fundraising.<sup>21</sup> As a result, Congress twice reauthorized the Adams Memorial Foundation’s authority to construct this Memorial, before the authority finally expired in 2020.<sup>22</sup>

In an attempt to revitalize this effort, Congress created the Adams Memorial Commission (Commission) to replace the Foundation as the entity responsible for constructing the Adams Memorial.<sup>23</sup> The Commission’s current authorization is set to expire in 2025.<sup>24</sup> The legislation further specifies any federal funding will be subject to a 1:1 non-federal match and administrative expenses will be capped at 4 percent. There is currently no offset identified in this legislation. This bipartisan bill was introduced by Representative Moolenaar (R-MI-02) and the late-Representative Connolly (D-VA-11).

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<sup>15</sup> S.1088, 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1088>.

<sup>16</sup> “John Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Adams-president-of-United-States/Continental-Congress>.

<sup>17</sup> “Abigail Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abigail-Adams>.

<sup>18</sup> “John Quincy Adams,” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Quincy-Adams>.

<sup>19</sup> Public Law 107-62.

<sup>20</sup> Public Law 107-315.

<sup>21</sup> H. Rept. 115-566.

<sup>22</sup> Public Law 113-291.

<sup>23</sup> Public Law 116-9.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

**H.R. 4285 (Rep. Maloy), “Semiquincentennial Tourism and Access to Recreation Sites Act” or “STARS Act”**

H.R. 4285, the “Semiquincentennial Tourism and Access to Recreation Sites Act”, or “STARS Act”, designates September 17, 2026, as a fee-free day at National Park System units in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America’s independence. September 17<sup>th</sup> is also the 238<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.<sup>25</sup> By recognizing these two foundational milestones on a single day, the bill encourages Americans to reflect on the nation’s origins, civic values, and democratic institutions. This legislation advances the goals of President Trump’s Executive Order on “Celebrating America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday” by promoting broad public participation in the Semiquincentennial celebrations and expanding public access to sites that conserve and interpret our nation’s heritage.<sup>26</sup>

The National Park Service (NPS) manages over 400 units that conserve the country’s natural landscapes and protect historical sites, providing Americans with opportunities to explore themes of liberty, freedom, and resilience in places that connect past and present.<sup>27</sup> The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act already allows the Secretary of the Interior to provide discounted or free admission days to federal recreational lands and waters; however, Congress can also grant the authority to waive entrance fees on specific days.<sup>28</sup> The “STARS Act” builds on NPS’s long-standing practice of hosting fee-free days to increase accessibility and commemorate significant national events.<sup>29</sup> By waiving entrance fees on September 17, 2026, NPS would offer a unifying, nationwide opportunity for Americans to visit public lands, celebrate the nation’s founding, and reflect on the principles that continue to shape its future.

#### **IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION**

**H.R. 1945 (Rep. Onder), “America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark Act”**

**Section 3. America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark.**

- Designates America’s National Churchill Museum, including the Winston Churchill Memorial, at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, as “America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark.”
- Authorizes cooperative agreements between the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Missouri, City of Fulton, and Westminster College to protect historic resources at the landmark and provide educational and interpretive programs. Allows the state, city, and college to be eligible for technical and financial assistance.
- Clarifies that the designation does not affect private property rights or the administration of the landmark by the state, city, or college.

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<sup>25</sup> “Constitution of the United States (1787),” U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/constitution>.

<sup>26</sup> “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday,” Executive Order 14189, January 29, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/03/2025-02231/celebrating-americas-250th-birthday>.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> 16 U.S.C. 6804(e).

<sup>29</sup> Office of Communications, “Start Planning Your 2025 National Park Trip,” U.S. National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/start-planning-your-2025-national-park-trip.htm>.



#### **Section 4. Special Resource Study.**

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the national significance and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating America's National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark as a unit of the National Park System.
- The study must consider alternatives for the protection and interpretation of the landmark and identify estimates for associated costs to the federal government. The Secretary is also required to consult with relevant stakeholders.
- Requires the study to adhere to existing statutory requirements regarding special resource studies.
- Mandates submission of a final report with conclusions and recommendations to Congress within three years of receiving funding for the study.

#### **H.R. 2290 (Rep. Dingell), “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act”**

#### **Section 3. Location of Commemorative Work.**

- Allows the commemorative work authorized by Public Law 117-328, which commemorates the commitment and service of the women who worked on the home front during World War II, to be located within Area I or the Reserve in Washington, D.C.

#### **H.R. 2306 (Rep. Moolenaar), “The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”**

#### **Section 2. Extension of Local Authority; Location of Memorial.**

- Amends the “John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act” to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission to 2032.
- Authorizes \$50 million in appropriations for the Commission, subject to a 1:1 non-federal match and a 4-percent limit on administrative expenses.
- Expands the eligible area for the Adams Memorial’s location by authorizing placement within the Reserve and an area identified on the map as the “Adams Memorial: Eligible Additional Area.”

#### **H.R. 4285 (Rep. Maloy), “Semiquincentennial Tourism and Access to Recreation Sites Act” or “STARS Act”**

#### **Section 2. Free Entrance to NPS Sites in Honor of America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, to designate September 17, 2026, as an entrance-fee free day at each site in the National Park System that charges an entrance fee.

#### **V. COST**

A formal cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is not yet available for any of the bills.

**VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION**

The Trump administration's position is unknown at this time.

**VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW**

[H.R. 2306](#)