

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5318

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funding for memorials honoring veterans, law enforcement officers, and firefighters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 29, 2023

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funding for memorials honoring veterans, law enforcement officers, and firefighters, 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 “Remembering Our
5 Local Heroes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR MEMORIALS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 tablish a grant program to fund construction, restoration,
2 renovation, and maintenance for covered memorials.

3 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-
5 gram, the Secretary may award grants to units of
6 local government and nonprofit organizations.

7 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant
8 under the Program, a unit of local government or
9 nonprofit organization shall submit to the Secretary
10 an application at such time, in such manner, and
11 containing such information as the Secretary may
12 require.

13 (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the
14 Program, the Secretary shall give priority to grants
15 that will fund projects—

16 (A) for which strong support is dem-
17 onstrated from the local community; and

18 (B) that memorialize individuals or groups,
19 living or deceased—

20 (i) who are broadly viewed to have
21 contributed positively, in a manner dem-
22 onstrating exemplary public service, to
23 their community or to the United States;
24 or

1 (ii) who distinguished themselves
2 through acts of bravery in which they
3 risked their lives.

4 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under the
5 Program may only be used for construction, restoration,
6 renovation, or maintenance for covered memorials.

7 (d) LIMITATION ON GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not
9 award more than 1 grant in a fiscal year with re-
10 spect to any single—

11 (A) unit of local government or nonprofit
12 organization; or

13 (B) covered memorial.

14 (2) AMOUNT.—No grant awarded under the
15 Program may exceed \$100,000.

16 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
18 under the Program shall provide non-Federal match-
19 ing funds equal to not less than 50 percent of the
20 grant.

21 (2) IN-KIND SUPPORT.—The non-Federal
22 matching funds described in paragraph (1) may in-
23 clude in-kind support.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be ap-
2 propriated to the Secretary to carry out the Program
3 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

4 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) COVERED MEMORIAL.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered me-
7 morial” means any statue, monument, sculp-
8 ture, memorial, plaque, inscription, or other
9 structure or landscape feature, including a gar-
10 den or memorial grove that is—

11 (i) owned or administered by a unit of
12 local government or nonprofit organization;
13 and

14 (ii) designed to perpetuate in a per-
15 manent manner the memory of individuals
16 or groups, living or deceased, who—

17 (I) are veterans of the Armed
18 Forces who served on or after April 6,
19 1917;

20 (II) are members of the Armed
21 Forces killed while on active duty as
22 a result of injuries incurred in the line
23 of duty on or after April 6, 1917;

24 (III) have served as law enforce-
25 ment officers; or

1 (IV) have served as firefighters.

2 (B) EXCEPTION.—The term “covered me-
3 morial” does not include any item listed in sub-
4 paragraph (A) that is located within the inte-
5 rior of a structure or a structure which is pri-
6 marily used for other purposes.

7 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
8 the grant program established under this section.

9 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (4) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
12 “unit of local government” means—

13 (A) a unit of general government below the
14 State level, including a city, county, munici-
15 pality, town, township, or village;

16 (B) the government of the District of Co-
17 lumbia;

18 (C) the government of, or a unit of general
19 government within, American Samoa, Guam,
20 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
21 lands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
22 Virgin Islands of the United States, and any
23 other territory or possession of the United
24 States; or

1 (D) the Tribal Government of a federally
2 recognized Indian Tribe.

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