

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4964

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a memorial to slavery,  
in the District of Columbia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2002

Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ARMEY, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. QUINN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a  
memorial to slavery, in the District of Columbia.

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 Slave Memo-  
5 rial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Millions of Africans and their descendants  
2           were enslaved in the United States and the 13  
3           American colonies in the period 1619 through 1865.

4           (2) The American Colonies determined that eco-  
5           nomic benefit would be derived from the import of  
6           slave labor and forthwith became an active partici-  
7           pant in the “Middle Passage” of African slaves to  
8           its shores.

9           (3) Upon their arrival in North America, Afri-  
10          cans were considered chattel and thereby denied the  
11          privileges granted to other immigrants.

12          (4) The agricultural resources of any nation are  
13          the backbone of its subsistence and for over 250  
14          years, millions of unnamed African and American-  
15          born Black men, women, and children provided the  
16          free labor that cultivated the fields from which  
17          Americans ate and were clothed, which allowed the  
18          dominant population to secure other interests.

19          (5) Slavery was a grave injustice that caused  
20          African Americans to suffer enormous damages and  
21          losses, both material and intangible, including the  
22          loss of human dignity and liberty, the frustration of  
23          careers and professional lives, and the long-term loss  
24          of income and opportunity.

1           (6) Slavery in the United States denied African  
2 Americans the fruits of their own labor and was an  
3 immoral and inhumane deprivation of life, liberty,  
4 the pursuit of happiness, citizenship rights, and cul-  
5 tural heritage.

6           (7) Although the achievements of African  
7 Americans in overcoming the evils of slavery stand  
8 as a source of tremendous inspiration, the successes  
9 of slaves and their descendants do not overwrite the  
10 failure of the Nation to grant all Americans their  
11 birthright of equality and the civil rights that safe-  
12 guard freedom.

13           (8) Many African American slaves fought as  
14 valiant patriots in the wars that helped to preserve  
15 our national freedoms, knowing they would never be  
16 privileged to partake of the freedoms for which they  
17 fought.

18           (9) African American art, history, and culture  
19 reflect experiences of slavery and freedom, and con-  
20 tinued struggles for full recognition of citizenship  
21 and treatment with human dignity, and there is in-  
22 adequate presentation, preservation, and recognition  
23 of the contributions of African Americans within  
24 American society.

1           (10) There is a great need for building institu-  
2           tions and monuments to promote cultural under-  
3           standing of African American heritage and further  
4           enhance racial harmony.

5           (11) It is proper and timely for the Congress to  
6           recognize June 19, 1865, the historic day when the  
7           last group of slaves were informed of their freedom,  
8           to acknowledge the historic significance of the aboli-  
9           tion of slavery, to express deep regret to African  
10          Americans, and to support reconciliation efforts.

11 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SLAVE MEMORIAL.**

12          (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Foundation for Af-  
13          rican American Heritage (in this Act referred to as the  
14          “Foundation”), in consultation with the Secretary of the  
15          Interior, is authorized to establish, in the District of Co-  
16          lumbia, a memorial to slavery—

17               (1) to acknowledge the fundamental injustice,  
18               cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the  
19               United States and the 13 American Colonies; and

20               (2) to honor the nameless and forgotten men,  
21               women, and children who have gone unrecognized  
22               for their undeniable and weighty contribution to the  
23               United States.

24          (b) LOCATION.—

1           (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
2           the Congress that the memorial should be situated  
3           within the area that is referred to in the Commemo-  
4           rative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) as Area  
5           I, and in proximity to the Lincoln Memorial.

6           (2) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of the In-  
7           terior and the National Capital Memorial Commis-  
8           sion shall determine a location for the memorial by  
9           not later than 6 months after the date of enactment  
10          of this Act.

11          (c) DESIGN.—The Foundation, in consultation with  
12          the Secretary of the Interior, and the National Capital  
13          Memorial Commission shall—

14                (1) not later than 6 months after the date of  
15                enactment of this Act, begin soliciting proposals for  
16                the design of the memorial from architects; and

17                (2) not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
18                actment of this Act, select a design for the memorial  
19                from the proposals submitted to the Secretary.

20          (d) FUNDING.—

21                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
22                rior, in coordination with the Director of the Smith-  
23                sonian Institution, may accept donations of any nec-  
24                essary funds from the Foundation and other private

1 sector sources to design, construct, and maintain the  
2 memorial.

3 (2) ACCOUNT IN TREASURY.—The Secretary  
4 shall deposit amounts that are accepted under this  
5 subsection into a separate account in the Treasury  
6 established for such purpose. Amounts deposited  
7 into the account shall be available for expenditure by  
8 the Secretary without further appropriation to carry  
9 out this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

11 (a) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months  
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and each 6 months  
13 thereafter until the submission of a final report under sub-  
14 section (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit  
15 to the Congress a report on activities with regard to the  
16 memorial.

17 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit  
19 to the Congress a final report on activities with regard  
20 to the memorial, including the recommended design of the  
21 memorial.

22 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), there  
24 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the

1 Interior such sums as may be necessary for carrying out  
2 this Act.

3 (b) LIMITATION.—No sums may be appropriated to  
4 the Secretary for the construction of the memorial unless  
5 at least one-half of the estimated total cost of the con-  
6 struction of the memorial is donated from private sources  
7 pursuant to section 3(d).

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