

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 864

To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2011

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

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 “Distinguished Flying
5 Cross National Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
7 **NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN RIVERSIDE, CALI-**
8 **FORNIA.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Distinguished Flying Cross, which was
2 created by Congress in 1926, is the oldest military
3 award in the United States for achievements in avia-
4 tion.

5 (2) The most reliable statistics regarding the
6 number of members of the Armed Forces who have
7 been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross indi-
8 cate that 126,318 members of the Armed Forces re-
9 ceived the medal during World War II, approxi-
10 mately 21,000 members received the medal during
11 the Korean conflict, and 21,647 members received
12 the medal during the Vietnam War.

13 (3) Since the end of the Vietnam War, more
14 than 203 Armed Forces members have received the
15 medal in times of conflict.

16 (4) Since the National Personnel Records Cen-
17 ter in St. Louis, Missouri, burned down in 1973,
18 many more recipients of the Distinguished Flying
19 Cross may be undocumented.

20 (5) Currently, the Department of Defense con-
21 tinues to locate and identify members of the Armed
22 Forces whose award of the medal has not been docu-
23 mented.

24 (6) The United States currently lacks a na-
25 tional memorial dedicated to the bravery and sac-

1 rifice of those members of the Armed Forces who
2 have distinguished themselves by heroic deeds per-
3 formed in aerial flight.

4 (7) An appropriate memorial to current and
5 former members of the Armed Forces has been con-
6 structed at March Field Air Museum in Riverside,
7 California.

8 (8) The Distinguished Flying Cross National
9 Memorial would honor all those members of the
10 Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves in
11 aerial flight, whether documentation of such mem-
12 bers who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross ex-
13 ists or not.

14 (b) DESIGNATION.—The memorial to members of the
15 Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished
16 Flying Cross at March Field Air Museum in Riverside,
17 California, is designated as the “Distinguished Flying
18 Cross National Memorial”.

19 (c) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national memo-
20 rial designated by this section is not a unit of the National
21 Park System, and the designation of the national memo-
22 rial shall not be construed to require or permit Federal
23 funds to be expended for any purpose related to the na-
24 tional memorial.

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