

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2833

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a survey and investigation of the site containing the graves of American Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors, located on a section of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the city of New York.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1993

Mr. TOWNS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a survey and investigation of the site containing the graves of American Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors, located on a section of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the city of New York.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) historical documents indicate that the
6 Brooklyn Navy Yard in the city of New York con-
7 tains the graves of approximately 9–11,000 Amer-

1 ican soldiers and sailors who had been held captive
2 and tortured aboard British prison ships in nearby
3 waters during the American Revolutionary War;

4 (2) recently discovered evidence suggest that
5 the specific part of the Brooklyn Navy Yard that is
6 the proposed site for a city garbage incinerator for
7 which a construction permit has been requested is
8 the burial ground for many of these courageous Rev-
9 olutionary War heroes;

10 (3) the potential value of this graveyard in un-
11 derstanding and commemorating the history of the
12 United States will be lost if construction is allowed
13 to proceed without an investigation; and

14 (4) the city of New York may spend millions of
15 tax dollars on a plan that will be halted if the site
16 proves to be a historic landmark.

17 **SEC. 2. SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION.**

18 In order to avoid damage to a potential national his-
19 toric treasure, the Secretary of the Interior, under section
20 2(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preser-
21 vation of historic American sites, buildings, objects and
22 antiquities of national significance, and for other pur-
23 poses” and dated August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462(b)),
24 shall conduct a survey and investigation of the site gen-
25 erally depicted on a drawing entitled “Map of Brooklyn

- 1 at the time of the Revolutionary War'', drawn by General
- 2 Jeremiah Johnson, and dated 1786.

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