

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2748

To authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. DREIER (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

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 War Perma-  
5        nent Tribute Historical Database Act".

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds that—

1           (1) there are many thousands of public memo-  
2           rials and permanent tributes throughout the United  
3           States and abroad that commemorate military con-  
4           flicts of the United States and the service of individ-  
5           uals in the Armed Forces of the United States;

6           (2) many such permanent tributes have never  
7           been comprehensively located, identified, or cata-  
8           loged;

9           (3) there exists a need to collect and centralize  
10          information regarding the identification, location,  
11          and description of those permanent tributes; and

12          (4) an organization known as RVETS, a tax ex-  
13          empt nonprofit corporation, has undertaken a self-  
14          funded program to catalog more than 8,000 memo-  
15          rials and permanent tributes located in the United  
16          States.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18          For purposes of this Act—

19               (1) the term “permanent tribute” means any  
20               permanent memorial, marker, other than a grave  
21               marker, that commemorates any military conflict of  
22               the United States or the service and sacrifice of any  
23               veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States;  
24               and

1           (2) the term “RVETS” means Remembering  
2           Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes, a tax exempt  
3           nonprofit corporation;

4 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.**

5           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to locate, identify,  
6           and catalog the many thousands of permanent tributes  
7           that commemorate the military conflicts of the United  
8           States, and the service and sacrifice of individuals in the  
9           Armed Forces of the United States, and to make such in-  
10          formation readily available for the educational benefit of  
11          the public, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall estab-  
12          lish and maintain the National War Permanent Tribute  
13          Historical Database. The database shall be comprised of  
14          the location, history and background, photographs, and  
15          other information that enhances the understanding of the  
16          permanent tributes, and information about the veterans  
17          in whose honor the tributes are dedicated. The database  
18          shall contain information on no fewer than 1,000 such per-  
19          manent tributes and shall be made accessible to the public  
20          through the Internet site of the Department of Veterans  
21          Affairs in a format that permits the public to submit infor-  
22          mation on memorials for the purpose of updating and ex-  
23          panding the database.

24          (b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may seek the as-  
25          sistance of the National Park Service, the Department of

1 the Interior, the American Battle Monuments Commis-  
2 sion, and other agencies that the Secretary considers ap-  
3 propriate in carrying out this Act. The Secretary is au-  
4 thorized to contract with RVETS for any information or  
5 services which assist in the development and implementa-  
6 tion of the database.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
9 \$3,200,000 to carry out this Act.

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