

GOLD STAR FAMILIES NATIONAL MONUMENT EXTENSION
ACT

OCTOBER 18, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2819]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2819) to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

Notwithstanding section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, the authority provided by section 2859 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2164; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall continue to apply through January 2, 2024.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2819 is to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 2819 extends the authorization for the establishment of the Commemorative Work to Gold Star Mothers, originally authorized

in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013,¹ for an additional four years to January 2, 2024. In November 2015, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved a location for the memorial on National Park Service property immediately west of the Arlington National Cemetery visitor center,² and since then the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission has consulted with the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation on design concepts.³

The authorization extended by this bill stipulates that the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is responsible for raising funds to establish the memorial and prohibits the use of federal funds.⁴

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2819 was introduced on May 17, 2019, by Representative Andy Kim (D–NJ). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On July 18, 2019, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On September 18, 2019, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Chair Grijalva (D–AZ) offered an amendment #1; it was adopted by unanimous consent. No additional amendments were offered, and the bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress—the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 2819: legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on July 18, 2019.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

¹ Pub. L. No. 112–239, § 2859, 126 Stat. 1632, 2164 (2013).

² Letter from Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA, Sec’y, U.S. Comm’n of Fine Arts, to Robert Vogel, Reg’l Dir., Nat’l Capital Region, Nat’l Park Serv. (Nov. 30, 2015), <https://www.cfa.gov/records-research/project-search/cfa-19nov15-2>.

³ See, e.g., Nat’l Capital Mem’l Advisory Comm’n, Notice of Public Meeting, NCMAC Agenda for Oct. 4, 2016, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=463&projectID=44217&documentID=70207>.

⁴ Pub. L. No. 112–239, § 2859(d).

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2019.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2819, the Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is David Hughes.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 2819, Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 2819 would extend the authorization of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work on eligible federal land through January 2, 2024. The foundation's authorization to establish a commemorative work expires on January 2, 2020. Federal funds are prohibited from being used to establish the monument.

The provisions of the Commemorative Works Act apply to the establishment and maintenance of the monument. That act requires the foundation to donate 10 percent of the monument's estimated construction cost to the National Park Foundation (a nonprofit organization). That amount and any project funds remaining after construction would be available to the National Park Service (NPS) for the monument's future maintenance without further appropriation.

CBO expects that although the timing of federal spending on monument maintenance by the NPS would change, the net amount of federal spending would not change. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2819 would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill is to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.