

## NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MEMORIAL ACT

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022.—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. 6353]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6353) to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6353 is to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 6353 would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States.

This bill would authorize the creation of a memorial in the Greater Washington, D.C., area under the Commemorative Works Act to show gratitude for service animals and their handlers and serve as a place of introspection over their contributions. The memorial will be fully paid for by a partnering organization, and no taxpayer dollars will be used.

H.R. 6353 recognizes that the National Service Animals Monument Corporation's mission is to honor and recognize the broad scope of service animals, including working animals, through the

creation of a memorial to educate the public of the contributions by service animals and the human-animal bond between service animals and their handlers, whether a person with a disability, a law enforcement officer, military personnel, or other handler. Formalized service animal work began in 1929 when the Eustice School in New Jersey established the first guide-dog school. The purple poppy is the international symbol for the service and sacrifice of service animals. On February 24 of each year, National Service Animals Day is celebrated in the United States and throughout the world.

Service and working animals, such as dogs, horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins, sea lions, and other animals, have worked alongside and supported humans throughout history and have created strong human-animal bonds. During the Revolutionary War, horses served in combat carrying soldiers, as well as transporting the wounded and critical supplies. During World War I and World War II, homing pigeons served as critical messengers with tiny message capsules attached to their legs that were used to send communications that saved the lives of countless soldiers, resulting in many pigeons becoming the target of enemy fire. In those wars, donkeys and mules transported food, supplies, and wounded servicemembers. During the war in Afghanistan, military working dogs safeguarded the lives of thousands of servicemembers by clearing areas of improvised explosion devices. In one example, Lucca, a German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois service dog, was employed by the United States Marine Corps for six years and trained to detect explosives, deploying twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, supporting over 400 missions without a single human fatality. Lucca ultimately sustained an injury and amputation in 2012 due to an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Afghanistan. The bonds formed between military personnel and law enforcement and their working dogs are so strong that they have risked their safety and their lives willingly to save the other.

The tasks that service dogs perform for persons with disabilities are essential activities of daily living, such as guiding people with visual impairments, signaling sounds for those who are deaf, retrieving items for people with mobility issues, alerting about impending cardiac episodes or seizures, turning on lights, providing stability for their human while standing, and pressing elevator and accessibility buttons. In addition to service animals' help with functional tasks and missions, the human-animal bond provides handlers the ability to live independently, work confidently, and socialize freely. Shelter dogs can be trained as service animals. Service animals, such as horses and dogs support a variety of health and therapy services, including for people with autism, schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. Specifically, these service animals can support servicemembers and veterans who experience traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Search and rescue dogs working with civilian or law enforcement handlers make United States communities and the nation safer when they assist with the rescue of lost children, seniors, and other at-risk individuals, including in the event of natural or manmade disasters. For example, service animals have supported search and rescue missions after terrorist attacks, including September 11 and the Oklahoma City bombing. Service animals have supported local

search and rescue missions involving lost children. The service dog Mercy, a bloodhound with the Lee County, Florida, Sheriff's department, tracked a 12-year-old girl for more than a half mile through thick woods after she went missing during Tropical Storm Elsa in July 2021. The service dog Gandalf, trained by the South Carolina Search and Rescue Dog Association, found a 12-year-old boy who had vanished from a campsite in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina in March 2019.

The extraordinary abilities of service animals, including smell, sensing, hearing, eyesight, and empathy, make them uniquely capable of helping humans, including by assisting with the identification of illegal drugs, detecting an impending seizure, hearing a person buried beneath rubble, or seeing an expensive or vital tool dropped by a naval diver. Service animals provide well-documented value to human health, safety, and security.

The National Service Animals Memorial will represent a place of pride, introspection, and education to pay tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by all service animals and their handlers throughout history.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6353 was introduced on January 3, 2022, by Representative Susan Wild (D-PA). 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 14, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On July 20, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered. The bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on July 14, 2022.

#### 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:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, September 15, 2022.

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. 6353, the National Service Animals Memorial Act.

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

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
Director.

Enclosure.

<b>H.R. 6353, National Service Animals Memorial Act</b>			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 20, 2022			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and zero.			

H.R. 6353 would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in or near Washington, D.C. The bill would prohibit the use of federal funds to establish the memorial.

The project would be subject to the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act. Under that act, any entity that receives a construction permit for a commemorative work must donate an amount equal to 10 percent of the memorial's estimated construction costs to the National Park Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose subsequent donations to the National Park Service are recorded on the budget. That donation and any project funds remaining after construction would be available for maintenance of the memorial without further appropriation.

Based on the experience from similar projects, CBO expects that any amounts collected by the federal government for maintenance of the monument would not be received for several years and would be offset by expenditures soon thereafter. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have a negligible effect on net direct spending.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of 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 are to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

#### 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

According to CBO, this bill contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### 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.