

Public Law 96-297
96th Congress

Joint Resolution

To authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a memorial.

July 1, 1980
[S.J. Res. 119]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war.

Vietnam
Veterans
Memorial Fund,
Inc.,
establishment.
16 USC 431 note.

Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in the area of West Potomac Park known as Constitution Gardens in the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That if subsurface soil conditions prevent the engineering of a feasible foundation system for the memorial in a location in that area, then the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in an area of West Potomac Park north of Independence Avenue other than Constitution Gardens.

Site selection.

(b) The design and plans for such memorial shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission: *Provided*, That if the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, or the National Capital Planning Commission fails to report his or its approval of or specific objection to such design and plans within ninety days of their submission, his or its approval shall be deemed to be given.

Design plans.

(c) Neither the United States nor the District of Columbia shall be put to any expense in the establishment of the memorial.

Expenses.

Sec. 3. The authority conferred pursuant to this resolution shall lapse unless (1) the establishment of such memorial is commenced within five years from the date of enactment of this resolution, and (2) prior to groundbreaking for actual construction on the site, funds are certified available in an amount sufficient, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior based upon the approved design and plans for the memorial, to insure completion of the memorial.

Termination of
authority.

Memorial maintenance.

SEC. 4. The maintenance and care of the memorial established under the provisions of this resolution shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior.

Approved July 1, 1980.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, is authorized to establish a memorial on public grounds in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War.

Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in the area of West Potomac Park, known as Constitution Gardens in the District of Columbia, Federal, That it authorize soil conditions prevent the engineering of a feasible foundation system for the memorial in a location in that area than the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized and directed to select a suitable site of approximately two acres in size located in an area of West Potomac Park north of Independence Avenue, other than Constitution Gardens.

(b) The design and plans for such memorial shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. Whenever the National Capital Planning Commission fails to report its or its approval of or specific objection to such design and plans within ninety days of their submission, his or her approval shall be deemed to be given.

(c) Neither the United States nor the District of Columbia shall be liable for the maintenance or the establishment of the memorial.

Sec. 3. The authority conferred pursuant to this resolution shall expire unless (1) the establishment of such memorial is commenced within five years from the date of enactment of this resolution, and (2) prior to such expiration for actual construction on the site, funds are certified available in an amount sufficient to the payment of the Secretary of the Interior based upon the approved design and plans for the memorial, to insure completion of the memorial.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

- HOUSE REPORT No. 96-1129 (Comm. of Conference).
- SENATE REPORTS: No. 96-663 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources) and No. 96-832 (Comm. of Conference).
- CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):
 - Apr. 30, considered and passed Senate.
 - May 20, considered and passed House, amended.
 - June 27, House agreed to conference report.
 - June 30, Senate agreed to conference report.
- WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 27:
 - July 1, Presidential statement.