

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5510

To co-designate the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the “United States-Mexican War Memorial”, to authorize limited interpretive enhancements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

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

A BILL

To co-designate the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the “United States-Mexican War Memorial”, to authorize limited interpretive enhancements, and for other purposes.

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 “United States–Mexican
5 War Memorial Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States–Mexican War (1846–
2 1848) concluded with the signing of Treaty of Gua-
3 dalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, reshaping the
4 territorial contours of the United States and Mexico
5 and establishing a durable peace through treaty.

6 (2) The war profoundly influenced American
7 military, political, and civic life and is a significant
8 chapter in the Nation’s history that merits national-
9 level recognition.

10 (3) Administered by the National Park Service,
11 Arlington Memorial Bridge spans the Potomac River
12 to connect the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington
13 House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, making it an
14 appropriate site for a co-designation that reflects na-
15 tional reunion after the Civil War and the United
16 States east-west expansion to a continental, indus-
17 trial power.

18 (4) As the Nation approaches the 250th anni-
19 versary of its independence in 2026, Congress seeks
20 to elevate under-recognized chapters of American
21 history and advance historical literacy through pru-
22 dent, low-cost commemorative actions on existing
23 Federal sites.

24 (5) There is no national memorial established
25 by Congress on Federal land in the National Capital

1 region dedicated to the United States–Mexican War;
2 a co-designation of an existing federally owned com-
3 memorative setting provides a practical means to es-
4 tablish a national focus for commemoration without
5 affecting transportation operations.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
7 lish a national commemorative focus on the United
8 States–Mexican War through a co-designation of an exist-
9 ing federally owned commemorative setting, with minimal
10 physical alterations and no effect on transportation func-
11 tions.

12 **SEC. 3. CO-DESIGNATION OF ARLINGTON MEMORIAL**
13 **BRIDGE.**

14 (a) CO-DESIGNATION.—Arlington Memorial Bridge,
15 spanning the Potomac River between the District of Co-
16 lumbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, is hereby co-
17 designated as the “United States–Mexican War Memo-
18 rial” (in this Act referred to as the “Memorial”).

19 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Interior
20 (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), acting
21 through the National Park Service, shall administer the
22 co-designation established by subsection (a).

23 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
24 shall be construed to—

1 (1) change the official name of Arlington Me-
2 memorial Bridge;

3 (2) alter or impede the bridge’s transportation
4 or safety functions;

5 (3) modify existing jurisdictional responsibilities
6 regarding the operation, maintenance, or repair of
7 the bridge; or

8 (4) create any right or cause of action.

9 **SEC. 4. CEREMONIES AND PUBLIC OBSERVANCES.**

10 The Secretary may plan, develop, and execute cere-
11 monies and public observances to recognize the co-designa-
12 tion made by section 3.

13 **SEC. 5. LIMITED COMMEMORATIVE ENHANCEMENTS.**

14 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—To further honor the service and
15 sacrifice of participants in the United States–Mexican
16 War and to interpret the war’s causes, course, and con-
17 sequences (including the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo),
18 the Secretary may install at, on, or immediately adjacent
19 to Arlington Memorial Bridge appropriate commemorative
20 elements limited to interpretive signage, plaques, and
21 landscaping.

22 (b) **LIMITATIONS.**—Commemorative elements author-
23 ized under subsection (a)—

24 (1) shall be consistent with division A of sub-
25 title III of title 54, United States Code (commonly

1 known as the “National Historic Preservation Act”)
2 and the National Environmental Policy Act;

3 (2) shall not materially alter the historic char-
4 acter, architectural features, or structural integrity
5 of Arlington Memorial Bridge; and

6 (3) shall not interfere with or encroach upon
7 any existing commemorative work.

8 **SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY OF THE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS**
9 **ACT; WAIVERS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
11 (b), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly
12 known as the “Commemorative Works Act”), applies to
13 commemorative enhancements authorized by section 5.

14 (b) WAIVERS.—

15 (1) SITE SELECTION.—Section 8905 of title 40,
16 United States Code, shall not apply with respect to
17 the selection of the site for the Memorial by reason
18 of the co-designation effected by section 3.

19 (2) CERTAIN CONDITIONS.—Section 8908(b) of
20 title 40, United States Code, shall not apply to the
21 designations or commemorative enhancements au-
22 thorized by this Act.

23 **SEC. 7. FUNDING; DONATIONS; EXCESS FUNDS.**

24 (a) NO FEDERAL FUNDS FOR ENHANCEMENTS.—No
25 Federal funds may be obligated or expended for the de-

1 sign, procurement, preparation, installation, or mainte-
2 nance of commemorative elements authorized under sec-
3 tion 5.

4 (b) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and ex-
5 pend contributions of non-Federal funds and in-kind dona-
6 tions for the purposes of this Act.

7 (c) MAINTENANCE AMOUNT.—Amounts received for
8 commemorative elements shall include the maintenance
9 and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1)
10 of title 40, United States Code.

11 (d) EXCESS FUNDS.—If, after payment of all ex-
12 penses (including the amount required by section
13 8906(b)(1) of such title), there remains a balance of funds
14 received for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall
15 deposit such balance with the National Park Foundation
16 in a separate account to be available to the Secretary in
17 accordance with section 8906(b)(4) of such title.

18 (e) NO EFFECT ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.—
19 Nothing in this Act prohibits the use of Federal-aid high-
20 way, National Park Service, or other Federal funds for
21 the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, repair, safety
22 improvements, or replacement of Arlington Memorial
23 Bridge or its approaches, except with respect to the com-
24 memorative elements authorized by section 5.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **COMMEMORATIVE WORK.**—The term “com-
4 memorative work” has the meaning given that term
5 in section 8902 of title 40, United States Code.

6 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

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