

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1876

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to relocate a memorial honoring the 9 Air Force crew members who lost their lives in an airplane crash in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests during a training mission on August 31, 1982.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2025

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to relocate a memorial honoring the 9 Air Force crew members who lost their lives in an airplane crash in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests during a training mission on August 31, 1982.

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 “Stratton Ridge Air
5 Force Memorial Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RELOCATION OF MEMORIAL HONORING THE 9 AIR**
 2 **FORCE CREW MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR**
 3 **LIVES IN AN AIRPLANE CRASH DURING A**
 4 **TRAINING MISSION ON AUGUST 31, 1982.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—With the consent of the owner of
 6 the private land adjacent to the Cherohala Skyway in the
 7 State of North Carolina on which there is located a memo-
 8 rial honoring the 9 members of the Air Force crew of the
 9 C-141B transport plane that crashed during a training
 10 mission over the Cherokee and Nantahala National For-
 11 ests on August 31, 1982 (referred to in this section as
 12 the “memorial”), and subject to subsections (b) through
 13 (e), the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this sec-
 14 tion as the “Secretary”) may authorize, by special use au-
 15 thorization, the installation and any maintenance associ-
 16 ated with the installation of the memorial at an appro-
 17 priate site at the Stratton Ridge rest area located at mile
 18 marker 2 on the Cherohala Skyway in Graham County,
 19 North Carolina, in the Nantahala National Forest.

20 (b) SITE APPROVAL.—The site at which the memorial
 21 is installed under subsection (a) is subject to approval by
 22 the Secretary, in concurrence with—

23 (1) the North Carolina Department of Trans-
 24 portation; and

1 (2) in a case in which the site is located adja-
2 cent to a Federal-aid highway, the Administrator of
3 the Federal Highway Administration.

4 (c) FUNDING.—No Federal funds may be used to re-
5 locate, install, or maintain the memorial under subsection
6 (a).

7 (d) COSTS.—The individual or entity requesting the
8 installation of the memorial on National Forest System
9 land under subsection (a) shall be responsible for the costs
10 associated with the use of National Forest System land
11 for the memorial, including the costs of—

12 (1) processing the application for the relocation;

13 (2) issuing a special use authorization for the
14 memorial, including the costs associated with any re-
15 lated environmental analysis; and

16 (3) relocating, installing, and maintaining the
17 memorial.

18 (e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The special use au-
19 thorization for the installation of the memorial under sub-
20 section (a) may include any terms and conditions that are
21 determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, including
22 a provision preventing any enlargement or expansion of
23 the memorial.

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