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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself and [see ATTACHED LIST of cosponsors]) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Corps of Engineers and other Federal
6 agencies are required to preserve and catalogue arti-

1 facts and other items of national historical signifi-
2 cance that are uncovered during the course of their
3 work (notably under part 79 of title 36, Code of
4 Federal Regulations).

5 (2) Uncatalogued artifacts within the care of
6 Federal agencies are stored in hundreds of reposi-
7 tories and museums across the Nation.

8 (3) In October 2009, the Corps of Engineers,
9 Center of Expertise for the Curation and Manage-
10 ment of Archaeological Collections, initiated the Vet-
11 erans' Curation Program to employ and train Iraq
12 and Afghanistan veterans in archaeological proc-
13 essing.

14 (4) The Veterans' Curation Program employs
15 veterans and members of the Armed Forces in the
16 sorting, cleaning, and cataloguing of artifacts man-
17 aged by the Corps of Engineers.

18 (5) Employees of the Veterans' Curation Pro-
19 gram gain valuable work skills, including computer
20 database management, records management, photo-
21 graphic and scanning techniques, computer software
22 proficiency, vocabulary and writing skills, and inter-
23 personal communication skills, as well as knowledge
24 and training in archaeology and history.

1 (6) Since 2009, a total of 241 veterans have
2 participated in the Veterans' Curation Program, in-
3 cluding the current class of 38 participants. Of the
4 203 graduates of the program, 87 percent have re-
5 ceived permanent employment in a field related to
6 training received under the program or chosen to
7 continue their education.

8 (7) Experience in archaeological curation
9 gained through the Veterans' Curation Program is
10 valuable training and experience for the museum,
11 forensics, administrative, records management, and
12 other fields.

13 (8) Veterans' Curation Program participants
14 may assist the Corps of Engineers in developing a
15 more efficient and comprehensive collections man-
16 agement program and also may provide the work-
17 force to meet the records management needs at
18 other agencies and departments, including the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs.

20 **SEC. 2. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS AND**
21 **MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES IN CURATION**
22 **AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**

23 (a) TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretary of
24 the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall
25 carry out a Veterans' Curation Program to hire veterans

1 and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Secretary
2 in carrying out curation and historic preservation activi-
3 ties.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

6 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

7 (2) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

8 (3) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

9 (4) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

10 (5) \$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.