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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8735

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study
of Lower Presidio Historic Park in Monterey, California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PANETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special
resource study of Lower Presidio Historic Park in Mon-
terey, California.

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 “American Sovereignty
5 and Monterey Historic Military Site Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Lower Presidio Historic Park was a center
2 of indigenous culture and a hub for trading through-
3 out the Americas for thousands of years prior to Eu-
4 ropean and American exploration.

5 (2) The Esselen were the first peoples of the
6 land, followed by the Rumsen, who collectively
7 stewarded the land for over 12,000 years.

8 (3) Middens from the indigenous Esselen and
9 Rumsen peoples represent the earliest fisheries of
10 abalone, collected and traded across the continent
11 for food, decoration, clothing, and cultural identity.

12 (4) The Lower Presidio Historic Park hill was
13 a Tribal Village and present Monterey was the Trib-
14 al Area of Achasta.

15 (5) The site served as burial grounds for the
16 Esselen and Rumsen people who continue to cele-
17 brate and host cultural gatherings at the park today.

18 (6) Lower Presidio Historic Park was originally
19 explored in 1542 by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and
20 the Monterey Bay was named as Bay of Pines and
21 claimed for New Spain.

22 (7) The site was explored by Sebastián Vizcaíno
23 in 1602 and renamed Monterey Bay after Gaspar de
24 Zúñiga Acevedo y Fonseca, the Viceroy of New
25 Spain and Count of Monterrey.

1 (8) Lower Presidio Historic Park was the site
2 of the first Catholic Mass by Father Junípero Serra
3 and Don Gaspar de Portolá y Rovira on June 3,
4 1770, marking the founding of the Presidio of Mon-
5 terey and the beginning of the Spanish occupation of
6 Alta California.

7 (9) From 1777 to 1849, Monterey served as the
8 capital of Alta California, with the Royal Presidio of
9 Monterey serving as the seat of government.

10 (10) Beginning in 1792, the Spanish fort “El
11 Castillo de Monterey” was built at Lower Presidio
12 Historic Park to prevent intrusion from European,
13 Russian, British, and Indigenous forces.

14 (11) The site was the location of the only land
15 and sea battle on the west coast when Argentinian
16 Privateer Hippolyte Bouchard, sailing for Argentina,
17 landed in 1818 and raided Monterey.

18 (12) El Castillo de Monterey assisted in the
19 1836 overthrow of Mexican Governor Nicolás
20 Rodríguez by American Isaac Graham and
21 Californio Juan Bautista Alvarado, which led to the
22 “Graham Affair” of 1840.

23 (13) The site was the location of the attempted
24 1842 seizure of Alta California for the United States
25 by Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, the Com-

1 mander of the United States Navy Pacific Squadron,
2 aboard USS *United States*, USS *Cyane*, USS *York-*
3 *town*, USS *Dale*, and USS *Shark*.

4 (14) On July 7, 1846, Commodore John Drake
5 Sloat of the United States Navy, along with 165
6 sailors and 85 marines, seized Alta California for
7 the United States from USS *Savannah*, USS *Cyane*,
8 and USS *Levant*. The brave soldiers, sailors, and
9 marines who raised the American flag at Monterey
10 opened California to American settlement, enter-
11 prise, and prosperity.

12 (15) The site was home to the first major
13 United States Army fort on the west coast, initially
14 called the Monterey Redoubt, then Fort Stockton,
15 and later Fort Mervine. The fort was built by the
16 United States Army, and among those involved in its
17 construction were future Civil War generals Edward
18 Otho Cresap Ord, William Tecumseh Sherman, and
19 Henry Wager Halleck.

20 (16) The site was later designated as the Mon-
21 terey Military Reservation and selected as the loca-
22 tion for an expanded military base following the an-
23 nexation of the Philippine Islands in 1901. The site
24 was renamed Ord Barracks in 1903.

1 (17) The segregated 9th Calvary Regiment, bet-
2 ter known as the Buffalo Soldiers, served at Ord
3 Barracks between 1902 and 1904. The Buffalo Sol-
4 diers arrived after service in Cuba and the Phil-
5 ippines and departed Monterey in 1904 to become
6 the first park rangers at Sequoia and Yosemite Na-
7 tional Parks, marking the site as a starting point
8 along the historic California Buffalo Soldiers Trail.

9 (18) In 1904, War Department General Order
10 142 redesignated Ord Barracks, including Lower
11 Presidio Historic Park, as the Presidio of Monterey
12 to preserve the memory of the original Spanish
13 Royal Presidio of Monterey.

14 (19) In 1910, veterans of the Mexican-Amer-
15 ican War unveiled the Sloat Monument at Lower
16 Presidio Historic Park to recognize their contribu-
17 tions.

18 (20) In 1924, the United States Army assisted
19 to fight the Associated Oil fire that threatened to
20 burn down fisheries industries at Cannery Row and
21 Fisherman's Wharf. Private Eustace Watkins of
22 Battery E., 76th Field Artillery Regiment and Pri-
23 vate John Bolio of Headquarter Troop, 11th Cavalry
24 Regiment from the Presidio lost their lives putting
25 out the fire.

1 (21) In 1946, the Military Intelligence Service
2 Language School was established at the Presidio. It
3 was renamed the Defense Language Institute in
4 1963. The Defense Language Institute trains Amer-
5 ican military personnel in critical foreign languages,
6 directly supporting United States national security,
7 military superiority, and the protection of American
8 interests worldwide.

9 (22) In 1992, the Monterey Bay National Ma-
10 rine Sanctuary was established and protects nation-
11 ally significant cultural, archeological, and historic
12 resources. Hundreds of shipwrecks have occurred in
13 the sanctuary and were a result of the significant
14 maritime exploration and commerce that historically
15 occurred in the region, including at Lower Presidio
16 Historic Park.

17 (23) Lower Presidio Historic Park is located
18 within the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Mon-
19 terey, which has operated as an active United States
20 military installation since 1846, and has been open
21 to the public under a lease agreement with the City
22 of Monterey since 1996.

23 (24) This site deserves to be designated as a
24 unit of the National Park System as a National His-
25 toric Park due to its unparalleled significance in rec-

1 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
2 protection, and interpretation of the study area by
3 the Federal Government, State or local government
4 entities, Tribes, or private and nonprofit organiza-
5 tions;

6 (4) consult with interested Federal agencies,
7 State or local governmental entities, Tribes, private
8 and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested
9 individuals; and

10 (5) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
11 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
12 maintenance associated with the alternatives de-
13 scribed in paragraphs (2) and (3).

14 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
15 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-
16 tion 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

17 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
18 on which funds are first made available to carry out the
19 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to
20 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
22 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

23 (1) the results of the study; and

24 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
25 Secretary.