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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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# A BILL

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