

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

75th CONGRESS

FILE NO. H.J.RES. 631

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Virginia

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the erection of a monument to the memory of General

Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg,

OCT 6 1952

~~RETURN TO SULLIVAN~~

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Director.

75TH CONGH. JS  
3D SESSION

# H. J. RES. 631

<del>HOSKIN</del>
<del>CAMMERER</del>
<del>DEMARAY</del>
<del>TOLSON</del>
<del>BRYANT</del>
<del>SPALDING</del>
<del>WIRTH</del>
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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 1938

Mr. ROBERTSON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed

cc *Cammerer*  
*R.F. Lee*  
*Reg I*

## JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That the sum of \$50,000 be, and the same is hereby, au-  
4 thorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury  
5 not otherwise appropriated, for the erection of a monument  
6 to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, at  
7 Woodstock, in the State of Virginia, with the advice of the  
8 Commission of Fine Arts. The said sum shall be expended  
9 under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior: *Pro-*  
10 *vided,* That the county of Shenandoah or the citizens thereof  
11 shall cede and convey to the United States such suitable site  
12 as may in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior be  
13 required for said monument: *And provided further,* That  
14 the United States shall have no responsibility for the care and  
15 upkeep of the monument.

JOINT RESOLUTION

JOINT RESOLUTION

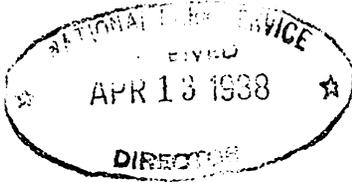
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON  
SEVENTH VIRGINIA DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
CHAIRMAN, SELECT CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.



April 12, 1938

~~Mr. Cammerer~~  
~~Mr. Demaray~~  
4-13  
~~Mr. [unclear]~~  
Mr. [unclear]  
in Sullivan

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cammerer:

I enclose a copy of my Resolution to authorize an appropriation for a suitable monument to General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg. Since this monument, if erected, would be under your jurisdiction, I will appreciate your kindness in submitting a report to the House Library Committee on the Resolution.

I find that our Government has been more or less remiss in providing monuments for Revolutionary War heroes. We have made much of the contribution of the French and of the Poles to the success of the Revolutionary War, but the part played in the struggle for liberty by the people of German descent has never been adequately stressed or recognized. The Federal Government has never done anything to honor General Muhlenberg and I feel it would be very appropriate to build a suitable monument to him at Woodstock, as the State of Pennsylvania has a monument to him in Philadelphia and also placed a statue of him in the Hall of Fame. Of course, it may not be necessary to spend as much as \$50,000. on the project but I merely set that as the outside figure.

I hope you can see fit to give the Library Committee a favorable report on the proposal.

Cordially yours,

A. Willis Robertson.

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON  
SEVENTH VIRGINIA DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
CHAIRMAN, SELECT CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.



J-2-21  
10.00

April 28, 1938

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
M. C. ...  
APR 29  
M. ...  
M. ...  
M. Sullivan

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cammerer:

Thanks for your letter of the 20th concerning H. J. Res. 631. Last Tuesday the House Library Committee favorably reported this resolution but reduced the authorization from \$50,000 to \$25,000. As soon as the committee report has been printed I will send you a copy.

The count of the State Highway Association for the fiscal year ending July 1, last, showed that an average of over 1,000 foreign cars passed through Woodstock every day. The Lutheran Church will build on the highway opposite the Court House a replica of the Muhlenberg Church. Our hope is that should this resolution pass, your Service and the Fine Arts Commission will decide to erect the monument to Muhlenberg in front of the church. The people of German origin, not only in the Valley of Virginia, but throughout the country have become very much interested in this proposal.

Cordially yours,

*[Handwritten signature of A. Willis Robertson]*  
A. Willis Robertson.

PROVIDING FOR THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT TO  
TO THE MEMORY OF GEN. PETER GABRIEL MUHLEN-  
BERG

APRIL 28, 1938.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. KELLER, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the  
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 631]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 631) to provide for the erection at Woodstock, Va., of a monument to the memory of Gen. Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report it back and to recommend that the resolution do pass with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 3, strike out the figures "\$50,000" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$25,000."

Many monuments have been erected to the heroes of the War between the States, but the only generals of the Revolutionary War to whom personal monuments have been erected were Generals Mercer, Nash, and Davidson by the Continental Congress, and later confirmed by the Congress of the United States, and Generals Washington, Lafayette, De Kalb, Pulaski, Von Steuben, and Greene. In other words, independent action of the Congress of the United States has been taken to provide individual monuments to only two native-born generals of the Revolutionary War—General Washington and General Greene. It is, therefore, highly fitting for the National Government to recognize the outstanding services of another native-born hero, Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg. His native State of Pennsylvania has honored him by placing a statue of him in Statuary Hall and by erecting a monument to him in the city of Philadelphia. The Lutheran Church, of which he was a distinguished member, plans to honor him by the erection at Woodstock of a replica of the little church in which he preached his famous farewell sermon before entering the military service of his country. But the Government for which he fought and for which he rendered such conspicuous service has taken no official action to commemorate his accomplishments as a preacher,

as a soldier, as a statesman, and as one of the outstanding patriots of his day and time.

Appearing before the Committee on the Library in 1903, Col. Joseph Smolinski said of the proposal to honor the memory of Count Pulaski:

From out that galaxy of heroes who gave our Nation an historic beginning at a momentous period of the world's history, not excelled even by the Olympian memories of Pericles, who pictured in thundering eloquence Athenian patriotism, there is one among the many far-shining men whose renown in valor and deeds is the record of a golden page of our national history, to which it has imparted dignity. This one man I single out was a foreigner by birth, a noble son of that most ancient nation, Poland; a stranger, if you please, but a dear brother by adoption, a veritable Bayard, "without fear and without reproach," a champion in the cause of the oppressed, in the cause of freedom, a hero of liberty, nay, an American citizen, baptized in his own blood on the plains of Savannah while defending our beloved land against the enemy.

There are millions of loyal and patriotic citizens in this country of German origin who feel that a similar tribute could be paid to General Muhlenberg with the added fact that he was a product of the new country and not of the old.

Appearing before the Committee on the Library on April 21, 1938, Mr. E. E. Keister, of Strasburg, Va., said:

Gen. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was one of the outstanding figures of the American Revolution, and his ringing call to arms at Woodstock, Va., was perhaps the most dramatic incident of that fateful contest.

Muhlenberg was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1746; schooled in Philadelphia; apprenticed to a merchant in Germany; back in America, a Lutheran preacher at 21. Four years later, in 1771, he received a call to Virginia. To gain full legal standing in Virginia, he went to England and was there ordained, April 25, 1772, by the Bishop of London. The same year he located at Woodstock. Active as a clergyman, he soon became prominent also in civil affairs—a member of the House of Burgesses and chairman of the committee of public safety in Dunmore County. Among his acquaintances was George Washington, to whom, in the opinion of some, he bore a striking personal resemblance.

Early in 1776 Muhlenberg was appointed colonel of the Eighth Virginia Regiment. He preached his farewell sermon in the little church at Woodstock, threw aside his clerical robes, and called the men of his parish to arms. Thomas Buchanan Read has described the scene most effectively in his famous poem:

"He spoke of wrongs too long endured,  
Of sacred rights to be secured;  
And there was tumult in the air,  
The fife's shrill note, the drum's loud beat,  
And through the wide land everywhere  
The answering tread of hurrying feet."

Muhlenberg's military services in the War of the Revolution continued from first to last, and extended over a wide geographical area. First he won distinction in the South, notably at Sullivan's Island, S. C.; then in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York; finally, again, in Virginia.

In February 1777, he was made a brigadier general in the Continental Army. In September of that year his brigade and Weedon's bore the brunt of the fighting in the battle of Brandywine; the next month he distinguished himself at Germantown. The following winter he was with Washington at Valley Forge. In the summer of 1778 he fought at Monmouth and the next year he supported Anthony Wayne in the capture of Stony Point. In December 1779 Washington sent him to Virginia, where he was in chief command until the arrival of Steuben and Lafayette; then he ably seconded them. He assisted in penning up Cornwallis at Yorktown. In the siege of Yorktown he led the first brigade of light infantry and was conspicuous in the attacks that compelled Cornwallis to surrender. His services at Yorktown ranked with those of Lafayette and Alexander Hamilton.

Near the close of the war, Muhlenberg was brevetted major general. Then, after having his home at Woodstock for 11 years, he removed to Philadelphia. There, in 1784, he was elected to the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsyl-

vania. For 3 years, 1785-88, he was vice president of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin being president. In 1787, when the Federal Constitution was presented to Pennsylvania, Muhlenberg was influential in securing an early adoption. For 6 years, between 1789 and 1801, he was a Member of Congress, the House of Representatives. He was then elected to the Senate, but resigned. The last 5 years of his life, 1802-07, he was collector of customs for the city of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia has erected a statue of Muhlenberg in the City Hall Square; and when the State of Pennsylvania chose two of her most distinguished sons to be honored in Statuary Hall in the Capitol here in Washington, Muhlenberg was one of the two chosen. At least two extended biographies of Muhlenberg have been published—one by a great-nephew, Henry A. Muhlenberg, in 1849; another by Edward W. Hocker, in 1936. Practically all of the standard encyclopedias contain articles on Muhlenberg. The best one I have seen is to be found in the Dictionary of American Biography, recently brought out by Charles Scribner's Sons, in New York City.

Muhlenberg's notable call to arms at Woodstock has been recognized by historians, enshrined by poets, and depicted on canvas by distinguished artists. His name is a household word in Virginia and Pennsylvania, is familiar to students all over the Nation, and is not unknown in Europe. Every year thousands of tourists come to Woodstock, the historic town where Muhlenberg first rose to fame. Many seek to know more of him and his brilliant deeds. It is only fitting that our Nation shall honor him with a monument on the spot where his genius first blazed forth, that the youth of America shall be inspired and all comers uplifted by his example.

At the same hearing Capt. Greenlee D. Letcher, of Lexington, Va., said:

I am from a college town and to my dismay and deep regret in a ballot among the students of a certain American university, a few days ago, 25 percent of the ballots cast stated that the young men casting these votes would not as soldiers defend America, and 82 percent would not fight on foreign soil. With this poison in the life of those who will later become the leaders of thought and action, Congress cannot do better than multiply memorials and shrines of loyalty and patriotism such as this, where its exemplar is a reverend man of God.

On the famous Valley Pike at Woodstock, Va., where it is proposed to erect the monument to General Muhlenberg, an official count of the Virginia State Highway Department showed an average of 1,119 automobiles from other States passed through Woodstock each day during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1937.

As General Muhlenberg rendered such great services to our Nation and received for them such small reward, the committee feels confident that the Congress and the country will esteem it a privilege at this late date to rear to him this monument of its gratitude.





THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

Hon. Kent E. Keller,  
Chairman, Committee on the Library,  
House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of April 12 enclosing a copy of H. J. Res. 631 entitled: "Joint Resolution To provide for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg", and requesting a report thereon.

H. J. Res. 631 would authorize an appropriation for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, at Woodstock, in the State of Virginia, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. The site for the memorial would be donated by the County of Shenandoah or citizens thereof, and the funds appropriated for the memorial would be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. The United States would have no responsibility for the care and upkeep of the monument.

General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was an outstanding leader of the large German Lutheran element in the Revolutionary and early national periods. He was pastor of a Lutheran Church at Woodstock, Virginia, from 1771 to 1776. In the latter year he raised and commanded a regiment composed largely of Germans from the Shenandoah Valley. He and his troops distinguished themselves at Sullivan's Island, and his brigade bore the brunt of the fighting at Brandywine. They also played an important part in the battle of Germantown. At Yorktown, Muhlenberg commanded one of the brigades that stormed two British redoubts, and so prepared the way for the surrender of Cornwallis. He was made a major-general at the close of the war.

General Muhlenberg was influential in securing the adoption of the Federal Constitution. He served as a member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania for six years. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1801 but resigned a month later to become supervisor of revenue in Philadelphia.

A monument to General Muhlenberg at Woodstock would be appropriate. It was from this town that he started on his Revolutionary War career. From this town and its vicinity came most of the German soldiers who constituted General Muhlenberg's first regiment.

If it is the judgment of the Congress that a memorial should be erected as provided under the current proposal, this Department will interpose no objection to this proposed legislation.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that bureau to the presentation of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

H. J. Res. 631 Parks

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LANDS  
★ JUN 21 1938 ★  
BREVIS OFFICE  
MAILS & FILES

JUN 21 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Receipt is acknowledged of the letter of First Assistant Secretary Burlew, dated June 11, 1938, transmitting the original and one copy of your proposed report to the Chairman, House Committee on the Library relative to H. J. Res. 631, providing for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.

Since the legislation has passed both Houses of Congress and the enrolled bill was signed by the President on June 16, 1938, there is, of course, no necessity to advise you as to its relation to the program of the President.

The original of your proposed report is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) D. W. BURLEW

Acting Director.

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure:  
Original of proposed report.

RWJ:mim 6/18/38

[PUBLIC RESOLUTION—No. 115—75TH CONGRESS]  
[CHAPTER 488—3D SESSION]  
[H. J. Res. 631]  
JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of \$25,000 be, and the same is hereby, authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, at Woodstock, in the State of Virginia, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. The said sum shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided, That the county of Shenandoah or the citizens thereof shall cede and convey to the United States such suitable site as may in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior be required for said monument: And provided further, That the United States shall have no responsibility for the care and upkeep of the monument.*

Approved, June 16, 1938.

MOSKEY  
CAMMERER  
DEMAREY  
TOLSON  
BRYANT  
SPALDING  
WERTH  
SULLIVAN  
Return to  
C.C.P.

H-2

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 22, 1936.

Memorandum for the Secretary, Fine Arts Commission:

During the last session of Congress there was passed a Joint Resolution (Public - No. 115 - 75th Congress) to provide for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, which reads as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of \$25,000 be, and the same is hereby, authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, at Woodstock, in the State of Virginia, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. The said sum shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided, That the county of Shenandoah or the citizens thereof shall cede and convey to the United States such suitable site as may in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior be required for said monument: And provided further, That the United States shall have no responsibility for the care and upkeep of the monument."

I have asked that our Branch of Plans and Design get in touch with the proper individuals at Woodstock, Virginia, regarding the matter of site and to find out what type of memorial the proponents of this proposal have in mind.

Congressman A. Ellis Robertson of Lexington, Virginia, who was instrumental in having the Resolution passed, has been contacted. He requests that Park Service representatives confer with Mr. E. E. Keister of Strasburg, and Judge Philip Williams of Woodstock, in connection with any investigation of any proposed sites. Congressman Robertson also suggests that it would be desirable for the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission to attend such a conference in Woodstock.

Can you advise me whether such an arrangement will be possible and, if so, can you suggest a tentative date when such a meeting would be suitable?

The Resolution is an authorization, but does not carry an appropriation for the erection of a monument so that it is felt that the step to be taken at this time is to examine available sites and determine in general what type of monument should be designed.

(SSE) A. E. DEMARAI

Acting Director.

cc Mr. Vint.  
Mr. Moskey.  
Regional Director, Region I.

WGC:RSW