

MEDIA RELEASE



401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202 482-7200
Fax: 202 482-7272
www.ncpc.gov

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Lisa MacSpadden
202-482-7263 or lisa@ncpc.gov

Congress Validates Commission's Role In Review Of World War II Memorial

Washington, DC – In a unanimous voice vote today the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that validates the National Capital Planning Commission’s past approvals of the World War II Memorial and ensures a continuing role for both NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts as design modifications and refinements for the project proceed. Unlike the earlier House version, the legislation adopted today calls for expedited construction of the memorial at the Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall consistent with existing plans and subject to design modifications.

Commission Chairman Richard L. Friedman said, “We are delighted that Congress has entrusted ongoing design review to NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts and we look forward to working toward the best possible design for this important memorial.”

Because the legislation ratifies NCPC’s prior actions on the memorial, a planned special meeting on June 13-14, 2001 to review those actions is no longer necessary and the meeting has been canceled. Plans for a panel discussion by architects and design experts to prepare for the June meeting have also been dropped.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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