



THE WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE

IN THE
STATE OF MARYLAND

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Congress passes Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail Legislation. Bill Advances to President Obama's Desk

WASHINGTON—On Wednesday, March 25th, the United States House of Representatives passed HR 146, the Omnibus Public Lands bill, which includes designation of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) National Historic Trail. The W3R trail extends 685 miles from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA, including 200 miles of the Chesapeake Bay estuary. In Maryland, the W3R bill was cosponsored by Senators Benjamin Cardin (DMD) 3/6/2008 and Barbara Mikulski (DMD) 2/16/2007. Also supported by Congressman John Sarbanes (DMD) 1st Maryland Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressional approval of the Omnibus Public Lands bills S 22 and HR 146, was over whelming passed by a vote of 285 -140. The bill is expected to be signed by President Barack Obama in the coming week.

The W3R legislation, which was initiated in the House by Congressman Maurice Hinchey of New York State, and in the Senate by Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, honors the American and French Alliance in our War for Independence that ended at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.

A network of historic house museums, state, local and National Parks, archives, tourism offices, state departments of transportation, greenway advocates, libraries, churches and historical societies, as well as private individuals, in nine states including: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, and internationally with W3R in Paris, France, have been working together since 1998 towards W3R's 225th Anniversary Legacy Project.

The establishment of this unique public-private partnership celebrates the role of colonial Americans in those nine states, plus DC and France played in supporting the care and feeding of over 5,000 Continental and French troops and their livestock as they marched to Virginia to defeat British General Cornwallis. The W3R National Historic Trail – the first National Historic Trail in the North East USA- represents a new opportunity for America to embrace its history, grow its economy through heritage tourism, and educate students and families about conservation and American History and the long-time friendship between the United States and France. "The W3R is a wonderful cooperative effort between every day citizens and government agencies on every level. By pulling together as a team, seemingly unrelated sites and historic repositories have heightened the appreciation of 18th century America throughout the original thirteen colonies. This legislation, recognizing the natural beauty and history of the route and preserving the story of our colonial past is a wonderful gift from present to future generations," said Kim Burdick, National Chair of the (W3R) Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association. [The W3R USA annual meeting will be held on Sat May 2, 2009 at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland.](#) Steve Elkinton and John Mauonis of the National Park Service will speak about the National Trail System & Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

The National Park Service study which was completed in 2006 noted the exceptional natural, cultural and historic significance of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, prompting Congress to begin advancing the related National Historic Trail legislation as a legacy project of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution. To read this report and view related maps, please visit www.w3r-us.org

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