



**THE WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU
REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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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 in Section 5204. The W3R trail extends 685 miles from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA, including 52 miles along the coast of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. In PA, the W3R bill cosponsors include: both Senators Casey and Specter and Congressmen Patrick Murphy, Chaka Fattah, Allison Schwartz, Robert Brady and Joseph Sestak – the entire Philadelphia area delegation - all of whom praised Congressional approval of the Omnibus Public Lands bills S 22 and HR 146, which passed by a vote of 285 -140. Congressman Murphy said, "This is a great day for all of us in Pennsylvania who enjoy the rich heritage of our Commonwealth and the great history of our nation. The designation of the National Historic Trail and rededication of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor will boost our economy through increased tourism across Pennsylvania and benefit all future generations by giving them a chance to take advantage of these historic and natural resources."

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, which ended with Victory at 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, scouts, historical societies, as well as 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 collaborating since 1998 towards W3R's 225th Anniversary Legacy Project.

The establishment of this unique public-private partnership celebrates the vital role played by colonial Americans in those nine states, plus DC and France 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 NHT in NE 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 great gift given by present to future generations," said Kim Burdick, Chair, W3R USA.

The National Park Service study, 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