



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

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**President Obama signs Wilderness Protection/Public Lands Bill  
including the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail**

WASHINGTON—On Monday, March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Wilderness Protection /Omnibus Public Lands bill that the United States House of Representatives passed as HR 146 last week - including designation of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) National Historic Trail (Sec. 5204). The W3R trail extends 685 miles from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA, including 52 miles along PA's Delaware River coast.- the first National Historic Trail in NE USA. W3R PA thanks W3R bill cosponsors: 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 the House 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 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Project. America's March to Yorktown re-enactors marched the entire 685 mi. in 2006 [www.marchtoyorktown.org](http://www.marchtoyorktown.org)

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 livestock as they marched to VA to defeat British General Cornwallis. The W3R National Historic Trail represents a new opportunity for America to embrace its history, grow its economy through heritage tourism, and educate students and families about conservation, American History and the long-time friendship between the USA 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2006 National Park Service study noted the exceptional natural, cultural and historic significance of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, prompting Congress to advance the related National Historic Trail legislation as a legacy project of the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. To read this report and view related maps, please visit [www.w3r-us.org](http://www.w3r-us.org)