



H.R. 4191 – WRIGHT BROTHERS-DUNBAR NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK DESIGNATION ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4191 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael Turner (R-OH) on November 15, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.R. 4191 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 4, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4191 redesignates the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio as the "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park."

The legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to the parks' private partners for projects. The grants will be limited to construction and development on non-Federal property within the boundaries of the park.

BACKGROUND

There are four National Historic Landmarks and a National Register Historic District located within Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. These include The Wright Cycle Company building, Hoover Block, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, 1905 Wright Flyer III, and the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial. Together these sites tell the story of the lives and legacies of Wilbur Wright, Orville Wright, and Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Orville and Wilbur Wright are two American brothers who are credited the world's first controlled and powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on December 17, 1903. The brothers are additionally credited with the invention and construction of the world's first successful airplane. Neither Orville nor Wilbur received high school diplomas, and owned their own newspaper and bicycle shop prior to their aeronautical accomplishments.

Paul Laurence Dunbar is considered as being among the first African-Americans to gain a national reputation as a poet. He was born in 1872 in Dayton, Ohio, as the son of ex-slaves and was classmates with Orville Wright. Paul writings include short stories, novels, librettos, plays, songs and essays as well as poetry. His work often addressed the difficulties encountered by members of his race and the efforts of African-Americans to achieve equality in America.

STAFF CONTACT

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