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Congress of the United States
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August 11, 2026

To the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission:

Thank you all for being here today and to highlight something our nation sometimes forgets: service does not always come on two feet.

For generations, animals have stood beside our military members, first responders, law enforcement officers, and Americans with disabilities. They have searched for survivors, detected danger, provided mobility and independence, comforted those in crisis, and, in some cases, put their own lives on the line to protect ours.

That is why the National Service Animals Monument Location Act is so important.

This legislation is about more than a monument. It is about recognition, remembrance, and gratitude. Our nation has a long tradition of honoring those who have served. We build memorials so that future generations can learn about the sacrifices that made our country safer and stronger. The animals who have served alongside us deserve that same recognition.

Whether they are military working dogs, service animals, search-and-rescue animals, or other animals that have answered the call to serve, their contributions have made a real difference in the lives of Americans.

And behind every one of these animals is also a story about the people who trained them, cared for them, worked beside them, and relied on them.

The bond between a service animal and the person they serve is extraordinary. It is built on trust, discipline, courage, and an understanding that goes far beyond words.

The National Service Animals Monument would give us a permanent place to honor that bond. As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility not only to write laws, but also to make sure that the stories of service and sacrifice are not forgotten. This monument would help us do exactly that. And I want to thank everyone in this organization who has worked to make this legislation a reality. Your advocacy matters.

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You are making sure that the contributions of these remarkable animals are recognized not just today, but for generations to come.

When a young person visits this monument years from now, I hope they walk away understanding that courage can take many forms. Sometimes courage wears a uniform. Sometimes it carries a badge. And sometimes it has four paws, a leash, a harness, or a working vest. These animals have served our nation faithfully.

Now, it is our turn to serve them by ensuring that their stories are remembered.

I am proud to stand with you in support of the National Service Animals Monument Location Act, and I look forward to continuing our work together to honor the animals who have given so much to our country and to the people they serve.

Thank you for your advocacy, thank you for your partnership, and most importantly, thank you for helping us remember those who have served.

God bless you, and God bless our great nation, the United States of America.

Jennifer A. Kiggans
Member of Congress, Virginia's Second District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.A.K.' followed by a stylized flourish.