



## **The Robert E. Lee Monument Removal Act**

***Sponsor: Rep. David Trone (D-MD)***

***Original Cosponsors: Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD), Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD), Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)***

### **Summary**

The Antietam National Battlefield is a historic site marking the spot where 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led President Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.<sup>1</sup> Antietam National Battlefield is a National Park Service-protected area along Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Washington County, northwestern Maryland.

On display at the battlefield is a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, which was installed by a private citizen on private property in 2003; the National Park Service acquired the land, and the statue, in 2005.

Due to the historical inaccuracy and symbolism surrounding Robert E. Lee monument at Antietam National Battlefield, The Robert E. Lee Monument Removal Act will require Antietam National Battlefield to remove and destroy or facilitate the removal and destruction of the Robert E. Lee monument from the Battlefield.

### **What will this legislation do?**

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan within one year of enactment to remove and destroy the Robert E. Lee monument;
- Allows the Secretary of the Interior to restore the site of the monument in a manner the Secretary deems appropriate for the protection and interpretation of Antietam National Battlefield; and
- Gives the Secretary of Interior the authority to sell the raw materials of the destroyed monument and retain proceeds of such sale to offset the costs of removal and destruction of the monument.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm>