

*Washington, DC* - The House Natural Resources Committee, of which Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) is a member, today approved the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) bill he authored that would designate the path French troops took in 1781 from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia as a National Historic Trail. On that path, French troops joined General George Washington's command en route to defeating the British and helping to win the American Revolutionary War.

"Protecting and preserving our nation's historical sites is an essential part of teaching future generations about the beginnings of our country," Hinchey said. "Designating the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a historic trail is an excellent way for New Yorkers and people who live in other states along the trail to learn about the extraordinary events that took place in our own backyard. The Revolutionary War march from New England to Yorktown is a crucial part of our nation's history and it's very important that we pay tribute to historic sites such as these because it enables all of us to truly examine what it means to fight for democracy and freedom."

The W3R bill traces the 650-mile route through eight states: Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. American troops under the command of Commander-in-Chief George Washington joined the French force, which was led by General Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau, outside New York City. On October 17, 1781, the combined armies defeated the British army with the help of a French fleet commanded by Admiral de Grasse. General Cornwallis' surrender that day at Yorktown ended major hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

The bill designates the path as a National Historic Trail, maps the route with educational signs, and gives administrative authority to the Secretary of the Interior. Additionally, the bill ensures that during the process of designating parts of the trail, that all private property rights are respected. The measure has the support of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Association.

Hinchey is the author of the bill that established the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in 1996. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was established to recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the region's nationally significant historical, cultural, and natural resources. The National Park Service, which supports Hinchey's Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) bill, maintains and operates the Heritage Area.

# House Panel Approves Hinchey Bill To Create Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail

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