

Federal Legislative Priorities 2020-22

The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table

Legislative Mission Statement: The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table, the Regional Civil War Round Table for Southeast Cuyahoga County, Ohio, is committed to seeking legislation and policies that benefits not only the region we serve, and the principle subject-matter that we study and promote, but other cultural organizations, historic sites, and the American People.

Our Federal Legislative Priorities for the 116th and 117th Congresses are:

Thank You:

- For passage of the Great American Outdoors Act;
- For continued robust funding for the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities;

Enhanced Support for Cultural Agencies that have a more critical role during COVID-19:

- The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and namely, PBS, for increased educational programming for school-age children and young adults that is used to supplement their formal education;
- The Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives and Records Administration for enhanced online programming from their institutions, as well as for additional preparedness, space-planning, and storage needs for their institutions.
- Additional stimulus dollars for cultural institutions and allied organizations.

Federal Recognition of James A. Garfield:

- Consideration of the Medal of Honor for James A. Garfield for actions at Chickamauga, Georgia, on September 20, 1863 (MOH was authorized in July, 1863).
- NARA Site commemorating the life and times, and serving as a repository of documents, of James A. Garfield.

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Protection of Cultural and Historical Sites; Strengthening of Penalties for those who Vandalize or Damage Cultural and Historical Sites:

- Within the past several months, a significant number of historical and cultural sites, as a result of civil unrest, were damaged – sometimes permanently and irreparably – or destroyed, and in most of these instances, those who committed the crime were never caught. Legislation at the Federal, State and Local levels (that would be consistent with Federal statutes against these types of crime) to punish those who damage these Sites would serve as a deterrent for these types of crimes. Legislation would seek both enhanced penalties, but the allowance of Judges to have options when sentencing those who commit these types of crimes.

Enhanced Security at Camp Chase National Cemetery in Columbus:

- This site in West Columbus, which was the training base for Colonel James A. Garfield's 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, is now the final resting place of 2,200 prisoners of war (soldiers of the Confederate States of America), including African Americans who were brought with these prisoners. Additional appropriate means of security should be sought to protect this site from vandalism or destruction.

Support for America250

- Support for efforts geared towards the 250th Birthday of the United States of America in 2026, including resource, material, and financial support to States, Local Governments, and Historical Organizations, to facilitate patriotic, historical, and other educational programming.

For Additional Information, please contact:

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The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table

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