

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 671

To conduct a special resource study of Fort Pillow Historic State Park  
in Henning, Tennessee, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To conduct a special resource study of Fort Pillow Historic  
State Park in Henning, Tennessee, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as “Fort Pillow National Bat-  
5       tlefield Park Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) Fort Pillow was originally built by Confed-  
9       erate troops in 1861 and named after General Gid-  
10      eon J. Pillow of Maury County, Tennessee.

1           (2) The battle of Fort Pillow was fought on  
2           April 12, 1864, at Fort Pillow in Henning, Ten-  
3           nessee, during the American Civil War.

4           (3) At Fort Pillow, Tennessee, Confederate  
5           forces never defeated the Union Navy. Instead, they  
6           perpetrated a heinous massacre after violating a flag  
7           of truce by advantageously repositioning rebel troops  
8           and by looting government buildings and private  
9           storefronts surrounding the fort.

10          (4) According to the 1864 Report “Fort Pillow  
11          Massacre” from the United States Congress Joint  
12          Committee on the Conduct of the War, “The officers  
13          and men seem to vie with each other in the devilish  
14          work; men, women and even children, wherever  
15          found, were deliberately shot down, beaten and  
16          hacked with sabers. . . .”.

17          (5) The Union garrison consisted of 19 officers  
18          and 538 troops of whom 262 were United States  
19          Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.).

20          (6) Per the report, “Of the men, from three  
21          hundred to four hundred are known to have been  
22          killed at Fort Pillow, of whom at least three hundred  
23          were murdered in cold blood after the fort was in  
24          possession of the rebels and our men had thrown  
25          down their arms and ceased to offer resistance.”.

1           (7) The massacre at Fort Pillow demonstrated  
2           to all U.S.C.T. that surrender was not an option.  
3           The massacre at Fort Pillow became a rallying cry  
4           and motivation for the 209,147 U.S.C.T.

5           (8) The 209,147 U.S.C.T. fundamentally con-  
6           tributed to the Union's defeat of the Confederacy.

7           (9) The State of Tennessee allows the wrongful  
8           modification of the historical record by claiming it  
9           was a battle without a massacre of hundreds of sur-  
10          rendering Union troops and innocent civilians.

11          (10) In 1971, Fort Pillow became a State park.

12          (11) In 1973, Fort Pillow was added to the Na-  
13          tional Register of Historic Places.

14          (12) The following year, in 1974, Fort Pillow  
15          was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

16          (13) Fort Pillow Historic State Park consists of  
17          1,642 acres.

18          (14) The Park contains several attraction areas  
19          such as a Civil War museum, hiking trail, camping  
20          ground, and picnic area.

21          (15) This site deserves to become a National  
22          Battlefield Park due to its profound effect on  
23          U.S.C.T. and all Union forces in their fight to pre-  
24          serve the United States of America.

1 **SEC. 3. FORT PILLOW SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

2       The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special  
3 resource study of Fort Pillow Historic State Park in  
4 Henning, Tennessee. Fort Pillow is a State park that fea-  
5 tures the American Civil War history and the Massacre  
6 at Fort Pillow. The Secretary shall—

7           (1) evaluate the site’s national significance; and

8           (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of  
9       designating it as a unit of the National Historic  
10      Park System.

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