

National Statuary Hall Collection

Primary Source

House Joint Resolution — July 2, 1864 (2 U.S.C. §2131)

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That a marble floor, similar to that of the congressional library or the Senate vestibule, shall be constructed in the old hall of the House of Representatives, using such marble as may be now on hand and not otherwise required, and that suitable structures and railings shall be therein erected for the reception and protection of statuary, and the same shall be under the supervision and direction of the commissioner of public buildings; and so much of the moneys now or heretofore appropriated for the capitol extension as may be necessary, not exceeding the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, is hereby set apart and shall be disbursed for the *poses* [purposes] hereinbefore mentioned. And the President is hereby authorized to invite each and all the states to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each state, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or from distinguished civic or military services, such as each state shall determine to be worthy of this national commemoration; and when so furnished the same shall be placed in the old hall of the House of Representatives, in the capitol of the United States, which is hereby set apart, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as a national statuary hall, for the purposes herein indicated.

Marble floor in old hall of the House of Representatives. Structures, &c., for statuary.

States to be invited to furnish statues.

Image courtesy of <https://uscode.house.gov/>

“the President is hereby authorized to invite...all the States to provide...statues...not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been...illustrious for their distinguished services such as each State may deem to be worthy of this national commemoration; and the same shall be placed in the Old Hall of the House of Representatives, in the Capitol of the United States, which is set apart...as a national statuary hall...”

House Joint Resolution — July 2, 1864 (2 U.S.C. §2131)

When was the National Statuary Hall Collection established? _____

How many statues can each state donate to the collection? _____

How should states decide which person to make a statue of?
