

Public Law 108–29
108th Congress

An Act

May 29, 2003
[S. 330]

To further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003.
18 USC 1369 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR DESTRUCTION OF VETERANS’ MEMORIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 1369. Destruction of veterans’ memorials

“(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (b), willfully injures or destroys, or attempts to injure or destroy, any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the United States shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

“(b) A circumstance described in this subsection is that—

“(1) in committing the offense described in subsection (a), the defendant travels or causes another to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or uses the mail or an instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(2) the structure, plaque, statue, or other monument described in subsection (a) is located on property owned by, or under the jurisdiction of, the Federal Government.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1369. Destruction of veterans’ memorials.”.

23 USC 109 note.

SEC. 3. HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the terms of any agreement entered into by the Secretary of Transportation and a State under section 109(d) or 402(a) of title 23, United States Code, a veterans cemetery shall be treated as a site for which a supplemental guide sign may be placed on any Federal-aid highway.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to an agreement entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved May 29, 2003.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 330:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 108-112, Pt. 1 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 149 (2003):

Mar. 27, considered and passed Senate.

May 20, considered and passed House.