

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2170

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit desecration of Veterans' memorials.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit desecration of Veterans' memorials.

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 the "Veterans' Memorials  
5 Protection Act of 2003".

6 **SEC. 2. DESECRATION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United  
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 1369. Desecration of veterans’ memorials**

2       “(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in sub-  
3 section (b), willfully injures or commits any depredation  
4 against any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument  
5 on public property commemorating the service of any per-  
6 son or persons in the armed forces of the United States,  
7 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than  
8 10 years, or both, but if the damage or attempted damage  
9 does not exceed the sum of \$1,000, the defendant shall  
10 be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one  
11 year, or both.

12       “(b) The circumstance referred to in subsection (a)  
13 is that in committing the offense, the defendant travels  
14 or causes another to travel in interstate or foreign com-  
15 merce, or uses the mail or an instrumentality of interstate  
16 or foreign commerce.”.

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

“1369. Desecration of veterans’ memorials.”.

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