

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1532

To amend title 18, United States Code, to create criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1997

Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. STUMP, Mr. BONO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. MICA, Mr. HYDE, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. QUINN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GREEN, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. MANTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FROST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. REGULA, Mr. VENTO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROEMER, and Mr. SMITH of Michigan) 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 create criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Cemetery  
3 Protection Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. VANDALISM AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 91 of title 18, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
7 ing new section:

8 **“§ 1865. Vandalism and theft at national cemeteries**

9 “(a) Whoever willfully injures or commits any depre-  
10 dation against any property of a national cemetery, or at-  
11 tempts to commit any of the foregoing offenses, shall be  
12 punished as follows:

13 “(1) If the damage or attempted damage to  
14 such property exceeds the sum of \$1000, by a fine  
15 under this title or imprisonment for not more than  
16 ten years, or both.

17 “(2) If the damage or attempted damage to  
18 such property does not exceed the sum of \$1000, by  
19 a fine under this title or by imprisonment for not  
20 more than one year, or both.

21 “(b) Whoever—

22 “(1) steals or knowingly converts to his use or  
23 the use of another any property of a national ceme-  
24 tery,

25 “(2) without authority, sells, conveys, or dis-  
26 poses of any property of a national cemetery, or

1           “(3) receives, conceals, or retains any property  
2           of a national cemetery with intent to convert such  
3           property to his use or gain, knowing such property  
4           to have been stolen or converted,  
5 shall be punished by a fine under this title or by imprison-  
6 ment for not more than 15 years, or both.

7           “(c) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘na-  
8 tional cemetery’ means a cemetery in the National Ceme-  
9 tery System established under section 2400 of title 38 and  
10 a cemetery under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the  
11 Army, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air  
12 Force, or the Secretary of the Interior.”.

13           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
14 at the beginning of chapter 91 of title 18, United States  
15 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
16 section 1864 the following new item:

“1865. Vandalism and theft at national cemeteries.”.

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