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HOUSE BILL NO. 1226

Offered January 15, 2010

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3300 and 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia, relating to wars recognized on Veterans Day and local monuments and memorials.*

Patron—Tyler

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 2.2-3300 and 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-3300. Legal holidays.

It is the policy of the Commonwealth to fix and set aside certain days in the calendar year as legal holidays for the people of Virginia. In each year, the following days are designated as legal holidays:

January 1 - New Year's Day.

The Friday preceding the third Monday in January - Lee-Jackson Day to honor Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) and Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson (1824-1863), defenders of causes.

The third Monday in January - Martin Luther King, Jr., Day to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., (1929-1968), defender of causes.

The third Monday in February - George Washington Day to honor George Washington (1732-1799), the first President of the United States.

The last Monday in May - Memorial Day to honor all persons who made the supreme sacrifice in giving their lives in defense of Virginia and the United States in the following wars and engagements and otherwise: Indian Uprising (1622), French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican War (1846-1848), War Between the States (1861-1865), Spanish-American War (1898), World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1965-1973), and Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991). On this day all flags, national, state, and local, shall be flown at half staff or mast to honor and acknowledge respect for those who made the supreme sacrifice.

July 4 - Independence Day to honor the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The first Monday in September - Labor Day to honor all people who work in Virginia.

The second Monday in October - Columbus Day and Yorktown Victory Day to honor Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), a discoverer of the Americas, and the final victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, in the Revolutionary War.

November 11 - Veterans Day to honor all persons who served in the Armed Forces of Virginia and the United States in the following wars and engagements and otherwise: Indian Uprising (1622), French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican War (1846-1848), War Between the States (1861-1865), Spanish American War (1898), World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1965-1973), and Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991), *Global War on Terror* (2000-), *Operation Enduring Freedom* (2001-), and *Operation Iraqi Freedom* (2003-).

The fourth Thursday in November and the Friday next following - Thanksgiving Day to honor and give thanks in each person's own manner for the blessings bestowed upon the people of Virginia and honoring the first Thanksgiving in 1619.

December 25 - Christmas Day.

Whenever any of such days falls on Saturday, the Friday next preceding such day, or whenever any of such days falls on Sunday, the Monday next following such day, and any day so appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth or the President of the United States, shall be a legal holiday as to the transaction of all business.

§ 15.2-1812. Memorials for war veterans. A locality may, within the geographical limits of the locality, authorize and permit the erection of monuments or memorials for any war or conflict, or for any engagement of such war or conflict, to include the following monuments or memorials: Algonquin (1622), French and Indian (1754-1763), Revolutionary (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican (1846-1848), Confederate or Union monuments or memorials of the War Between the States (1861-1865), Spanish-American (1898), World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korean (1950-1953), Vietnam (1965-1973), Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991), *Global War on Terror* (2000-), *Operation Enduring Freedom* (2001-), and *Operation Iraqi Freedom* (2003-). If such are erected, it shall be unlawful for the authorities of the locality, or any other person or persons, to disturb or interfere with any monuments or memorials so erected, or to prevent its citizens from

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59 taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation and care of same.
60 For purposes of this section, "disturb or interfere with" includes removal of, damaging or defacing
61 monuments or memorials, or, in the case of the War Between the States, the placement of Union
62 markings or monuments on previously designated Confederate memorials or the placement of
63 Confederate markings or monuments on previously designated Union memorials.

64 The governing body may appropriate a sufficient sum of money out of its funds to complete or aid
65 in the erection of monuments or memorials to the veterans of such wars. The governing body may also
66 make a special levy to raise the money necessary for the erection or completion of any such monuments
67 or memorials, or to supplement the funds already raised or that may be raised by private persons,
68 Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion or other organizations. It may also appropriate, out of
69 any funds of such locality, a sufficient sum of money to permanently care for, protect and preserve such
70 monuments or memorials and may expend the same thereafter as other funds are expended.