

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 SESSION

CHAPTER 752

An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia, relating to memorials for war veterans.

[H 845]

Approved April 16, 1998

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 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 designated in § 2.1-21 upon any of its property 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) and Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm (1990-1991). 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 taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation and care of same. *For purposes of this section, "disturb or interfere with" includes removal of, damaging or defacing monuments or memorials, or, in the case of the War Between the States, the placement of Union markings or monuments on previously designated Confederate memorials or the placement of Confederate markings or monuments on previously designated Union memorials.*

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