

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4973

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for the destruction of memorials, headstones, markers, and graves commemorating persons serving in the Armed Forces on private property.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2008

Mr. POE (for himself and Mr. BURTON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for the destruction of memorials, headstones, markers, and graves commemorating persons serving in the Armed Forces on private property.

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. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR THE DESTRUCTION**  
 2 **OF MEMORIALS, HEADSTONES, MARKERS,**  
 3 **AND GRAVES COMMEMORATING PERSONS**  
 4 **SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES ON PRI-**  
 5 **VATE PROPERTY.**

6 Section 1369 of title 18, United States Code, is  
 7 amended—

8 (1) in the heading by inserting “,  
 9 **HEADSTONES, AND GRAVES**” after “**MEMO-**  
 10 **RIALS**”;

11 (2) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by striking “on public property”;

13 (B) by striking “armed forces” and insert-  
 14 ing “Armed Forces”; and

15 (C) by inserting “, or any grave or head-  
 16 stone or marker marking the grave of any such  
 17 person,” after “United States”;

18 (3) in subsection (b)(2) by inserting “grave,  
 19 headstone, marker,” after “statue,”; and

20 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 21 section:

22 “(c) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘grave’  
 23 includes any object placed on such grave to commemorate  
 24 the veteran or member of the Armed Forces of the United  
 25 States buried in such grave.”.