

## CHAPTER 35

AN ACT establishing a World War II Veterans' Memorial Highway Committee, designating a portion of State Highway Route No. 18 in Monmouth and Middlesex counties as the "World War II Veterans' Memorial Highway," and making an appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
  - a. World War II constitutes the most important and far-reaching conflict of this century, setting in motion many cultural, social, economic, governmental and moral changes in the larger society in which we are living today.
  - b. The participation of the members of the United States Armed Forces from New Jersey in this momentous event, both in terms of their service as soldiers and sailors and of their many sacrifices as evidenced by the thousands of deaths and other casualties which they suffered, deserves to be memorialized in this State.
  - c. It is altogether fitting and proper for a highway to be permanently dedicated to the memory of the veterans of World War II before that generation passes away and while the memories of that conflict still remain.
  - d. It is therefore appropriate to provide for the establishment of a committee to select commemorative statuary to be placed on or adjacent to the memorial highway designated by this act or at another suitable location, and to make an appropriation therefor.
2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate that portion of State Highway Route No. 18 located in the counties of Monmouth and Middlesex, except for that portion thereof in the Township of Old Bridge designated by Joint Resolution No. 2 of 1996 as the "Purple Heart Memorial Highway," as the "World War II Veterans' Memorial Highway."
3. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to erect appropriate signs bearing the name designated by section 2 of this act.
4. There is hereby established in the Department of Transportation the World War II Veterans' Memorial Highway Committee which shall consist of seven members as follows: The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, or the adjutant general's designee, and five public members appointed by the Governor who shall be a representative cross section of World War II veterans, from New Jersey, one of whom shall be appointed upon recommendation of the President of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly. Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. It shall be the duty of the committee to approve of the design of appropriate statuary to commemorate the contributions of World War II veterans, and to recommend a location for the statuary on or adjacent to the "World War II Veterans' Memorial Highway" designated by section 2 of this act or at another suitable location. The Commissioner of Transportation shall fix the location of the statuary and site the statuary thereon. The statuary shall include, but not be limited to, representations of World War II veterans from the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Army Air Corps, the Coast Guard, the Medical Corps services, and the Office of Strategic Services. The statuary shall include representations of both male and female veterans, including in the latter representations members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WACS) and the Women's Appointed Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). The committee shall be authorized to expend the funds appropriated by section 5 of this act for the cost of designing, fabricating and siting the commemorative statuary provided for herein, which statuary, upon the expiration of this section, shall be under the ownership, jurisdiction and control of the Department of Transportation.
5. There is appropriated to the Department of Transportation \$25,000 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes provided in section 4 of this act.
6. This act shall take effect immediately and section 4 shall expire on the 18th month

thereafter.

Approved June 29, 2000.