



# Robert Turner

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE 61ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 5, 2010

Contact: State Rep. Robert Turner  
Phone: 608-266-0731

## **Rep. Turner's Theft of Veterans' Cemetery Markers Bill Signed Into Law**

MADISON, WI -- State Representative Robert Turner (D-Racine) announced today that Governor Doyle has signed Assembly Bill 376 into law. Rep. Turner introduced the bill to help eliminate the growing problem of the theft of veterans' bronze cemetery markers. "This has been an escalating problem that needed a fix," said Rep. Turner.

Under current law, a court must order a person who is convicted of a crime to pay restitution to any victim of the crime, unless the court finds substantial reason not to order restitution. Assembly Bill 376 requires that a person who is convicted of theft of a veteran's cemetery marker must reimburse the cost to replace the markers to the cemetery from which it was taken.

"I find it extremely disrespectful and disappointing that people will stoop to the level of stealing bronze markers from the graves of our veterans," quoted Turner. "By virtue of this legislation, at least they will have to pay to replace the marker if they are convicted of the theft," he remarked.

Turner's bill is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Wisconsin Cemetery and Cremation Association. The bill will become effective within two weeks.

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