

the claim. No suit shall be instituted involving any claim described in section 3 unless the claimant shall have first given notice to the District in accordance with the Act of February 28, 1933 (47 Stat. 1370; sec. 12-208, D.C. Code, 1951 edition) and shall have presented to the District in writing a claim for money damages in connection therewith, and the District has had six months from the date of such filing within which to make final disposition of such claim. The administrative disposition of a claim by the District shall not be competent evidence of liability or amount of damages in proceedings on any such claim.

SEC. 5. In any case involving any claim described in section 3 in which the trial court shall consider the verdict excessive, the court may order a remittitur of so much of the amount of such verdict or judgment, as the case may be, as it considers excessive, and either permit the party in whose favor the verdict was rendered or the party recovering such judgment, as the case may be, to file a remittitur.

SEC. 6. After the effective date of this Act, no civil action or proceeding shall be brought or be maintained against an employee of the District for loss of or damage to property or for personal injury, including death, resulting from the operation by such employee of any vehicle if it be alleged in the complaint or develop in a later stage of the proceeding that the employee was acting within the scope of his office or employment, unless the District shall, in an action brought against it for such damage or injury, including death, specifically deny liability on the ground that the employee was not, at the time and place alleged, acting within the scope of his office or employment. If in any such civil action or proceeding pending in a court in the District of Columbia as of the effective date of this Act the District has not been named as a defendant, said District shall be joined as a defendant and after its answer has been filed and subject to the provisions of the preceding sentence, the action shall be dismissed as to the employee and the case shall proceed as if the District had been a party defendant from the inception thereof.

SEC. 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to relieve any District employee from liability to the District for negligent damage to or loss of District property.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect thirty days after its enactment.
Approved July 14, 1960.

Effective date.

Public Law 86-655

AN ACT

To authorize the acquisition of certain lands for addition to Harpers Ferry National Monument, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to further the commemorative purposes of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 645), by providing historic properties and administrative facilities, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to acquire, in the manner hereafter stated, the Storer College site, the original site of John Brown's "Fort" and the old Federal armory, comprising altogether approximately thirty acres, for addition to Harpers Ferry National Monument.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior may accept the conveyance of all right, title, and interest of the trustees of Storer College in and to the lands and improvements in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, granted to their predecessors for educational purposes pursuant

Harpers Ferry
National Monu-
ment.
16 USC 450bb-
450bb-2.

July 14, 1960
[S. 2674]

to section 2 of the Act of December 15, 1868 (15 Stat. 266), upon payment to said trustees of not more than the current fair market value of the improvements located upon such lands. The Secretary may also purchase lands, interests therein, and improvements thereon, which lands were granted to the trustees of Storer College pursuant to such Act of 1868 and subsequently were alienated by the trustees: *Provided*, That he may pay not in excess of the amount paid therefor by the then owners plus the cost of existing improvements placed thereon by them, and, in no event may he pay more than the current fair market value. The Secretary may also purchase from the trustees of Storer College, at not more than their fair market value, other lands and interests in lands acquired by them or their predecessors as a part of the college site, together with any improvements thereon. In addition, up to seven acres of privately owned lands, interests therein, and improvements thereon, which are interspersed with the aforesaid college lands may be purchased by the Secretary. Lands and interests purchased under this subsection may be exchanged for other lands, and interests therein, of approximately equal value, which comprise the college and interspersed lands otherwise authorized herein for purchase.

(b) To facilitate the acquisition of the original site of the engine house known as John Brown's "Fort" and the old Federal arsenal, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to exchange therefor federally owned park lands or interests in lands of approximately equal value in the vicinity of Cumberland, Maryland, which he finds are no longer required for park purposes.

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed \$300,000, as may be necessary for the purchase of lands, interests therein, and improvements thereon pursuant to this Act.

Approved July 14, 1960.

Appropriation.

Public Law 86-656

AN ACT

To authorize the award posthumously of appropriate medals to Chaplain George L. Fox, Chaplain Alexander D. Goode, Chaplain Clark V. Poling, and Chaplain John P. Washington.

July 14, 1960
[S. 2969]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to award posthumously appropriate medals and certificates to Chaplain George L. Fox of Gilman, Vermont; Chaplain Alexander D. Goode of Washington, District of Columbia; Chaplain Clark V. Poling of Schenectady, New York; and Chaplain John P. Washington of Arlington, New Jersey, in recognition of the extraordinary heroism displayed by them when they sacrificed their lives in the sinking of the troop transport *Dorchester* in the North Atlantic in 1943 by giving up their life preservers to other men aboard such transport.

Medals and decorations.
Chaplains.

SEC. 2. The medals and certificates authorized by this Act shall be in such form and of such design as shall be prescribed by the President, and shall be awarded to such representatives of the aforementioned chaplains as the President may designate.

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Appropriation.

Approved July 14, 1960.