

Massachusetts bans overpass troop tributes

by UPI

BOSTON -- Hundreds of U.S. troop tributes and patriotic displays on Massachusetts highway overpass bridges have been ordered removed amid safety concerns. The Massachusetts Highway Department announced this week all displays not taken down by the end of the week would be removed by road crews, the Boston Globe reported. The department's commissioner, Luisa Paiewonsky, said staff had noticed many more displays popping up over the state's 9,000 miles of highways that distract drivers, including political messages and advertising for real estate companies. "We can't avert our eyes from a known hazard," she said, adding she didn't want to get into regulating what types of displays would be allowed, and which ones forbidden. She said there was also concern some of the larger displays might not be maintained and could fall onto vehicles passing beneath, the report said. "These are on interstate highways and the bridges and they are big and they're exposed to a lot of weather and wind. And there are thousands of vehicles passing under them every day," she said.

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