

Senate Bill 449

Sponsored by Senators WHITSETT, FERRIOLI, TELFER, ATKINSON, Representatives ESQUIVEL, GARRARD, GILMAN, HUFFMAN, STIEGLER, WEIDNER, WHISNANT; Senators GEORGE, STARR, VERGER, Representatives BOONE, BUCKLEY, SCHAUFLE, SHIELDS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that U.S. Highway 97 in Oregon shall be known as World War II Veterans Historic Highway.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to historic highways.

3 Whereas during World War II U.S. Highway 97 served eight critical World War II military
4 training sites, including Camp Abbot, along its entire length in Oregon from Biggs Junction to
5 Klamath Falls; and

6 Whereas World War II military training sites at Rufus, Madras, Redmond, Prineville, Bend,
7 Sunriver and Klamath Falls on U.S. 97 are not marked by any signs to inform the local population
8 and traveling public of the World War II sites and the vital role U.S. 97 played during World War
9 II; and

10 Whereas the "Oregon Maneuver," the largest military training exercise in the Pacific Northwest
11 during World War II, involving more than 100,000 troops, occurred in six counties served by U.S.
12 97; and

13 Whereas 10,400 soldiers from the counties served by U.S. 97 served our nation during World
14 War II; and

15 Whereas 261 World War II veterans from the counties served by U.S. 97 made the supreme
16 sacrifice during World War II; and

17 Whereas after World War II, U.S. 97 continued its role as the major north-south route serving
18 the region east of the Cascades and adjacent states; and

19 Whereas Blue Star Memorial Highway signs installed on U.S. 97 after World War II honor all
20 members of the Armed Forces who have defended this country; and

21 Whereas Blue Star Memorial Highway signs installed on U.S. 97 do not honor highways and
22 nearby historic World War II military activities; and

23 Whereas no other highway in Oregon has a bridge named to honor World War II pilot Rex T.
24 Barber, who shot down Admiral Yamamoto, the architect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
25 on December 7, 1941; and

26 Whereas no other highway in Oregon serves an active military and civilian airfield named to
27 honor a World War II recipient of the Medal of Honor, Lt. David R. Kingsley; and

28 Whereas U.S. 97 serves Bly, a nearby location that experienced the only fatal casualties in the
29 mainland United States caused by an enemy of the United States of America during World War II;
30 and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas no Oregon highway has been designated to honor regional World War II veterans or
2 inform the public of the historic role a highway played during World War II; and

3 Whereas “World War II Veterans Historic Highway” signs that also include reference to local
4 World War II facilities and dates of operation will help the public locate nearby facilities and mu-
5 seums displaying local World War II history and more fully appreciate the continuing impact of U.S.
6 97 on their communities; and

7 Whereas “World War II Veterans Historic Highway” as an honorary designation does not
8 change the existing official names of U.S. 97, “The Dalles-California Highway” and “Blue Star Me-
9 morial Highway”; and

10 Whereas there are no “The Dalles-California Highway” signs on U.S. 97; and

11 Whereas Oregon named I-205 near Portland both a Blue Star Memorial Highway and Veterans
12 Memorial Highway; and

13 Whereas Oregon named State Route 62 “Veterans Memorial Highway”; and

14 Whereas veterans and other groups located along U.S. 97 have offered to pay for installing and
15 maintaining 14 “World War II Veterans Historic Highway” signs to be installed near World War II
16 military facilities on U.S. 97 and Oregon Route 126 near Prineville as honorary designations; now,
17 therefore,

18 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

19 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 366.**

20 **SECTION 2. (1)(a) The portion of U.S. Highway 97, known as the Dalles-California High-**
21 **way, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state line and ending at the**
22 **Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War II Veterans Historic Highway.**

23 **(b) The portion of State Highway No. 126 from U.S. 97 to Prineville-Crook County Airport**
24 **shall be known as the World War II Veterans Historic Highway.**

25 **(2) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along**
26 **the highways described in this section indicating the designation of each highway as the**
27 **World War II Veterans Historic Highway and indicating proximity to local World War II**
28 **military sites.**

29 **(3)(a) The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with**
30 **veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.**

31 **(b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the**
32 **markers.**

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