

House Bill 2036

Sponsored by Representative HUFFMAN (Presession filed.)

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 395 shall be known as World War I Veterans Memorial Highway.
Provides that Interstate 5 shall be known as Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway and Purple Heart Trail.
Provides that U.S. Highway 101 shall be known as Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans memorial highways; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Oregon has honored its World War II and Vietnam War veterans with border to border
4 memorial highways on U.S. Highway 97 and Interstate 84; and

5 Whereas Oregon has not similarly honored its veterans who served during World War I, the
6 Korean War or the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars; and

7 Whereas many other states have designated major highways as memorial highways to honor
8 veterans who served during these and other wars; and

9 Whereas 44,200 Oregonians served during World War I, with about 1,100 becoming war casual-
10 ties; and

11 Whereas all of Oregon's World War I veterans have passed away; and

12 Whereas 60,000 Oregonians served during the Korean War, with 298 making the ultimate sacri-
13 fice or being identified as Missing In Action; and

14 Whereas there are approximately 29,600 Korean War veterans living in Oregon; and

15 Whereas recent statistics show that approximately 54,000 Oregonians have served during the
16 Persian Gulf War and during the subsequent Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, collectively representing
17 the longest war in America's history, with 148 making the ultimate sacrifice to date; and

18 Whereas there are approximately 74,500 Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans living
19 in Oregon; and

20 Whereas at least 6,000 Oregon veterans from World War I to the present became eligible for
21 award of the Purple Heart, our nation's oldest military award; and

22 Whereas the missions of the congressionally chartered Oregon Department of the Korean War
23 Veterans Association and Oregon Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart include
24 honoring the service and sacrifice of Korean War veterans and all combat-wounded veterans; and

25 Whereas no congressionally chartered veterans organizations exist in Oregon to speak for World
26 War I veterans and Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans, and someone must speak for
27 them; and

28 Whereas the congressionally chartered American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars De-
29 partments of Oregon honor war veterans; 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 Oregon’s Blue Star Memorial Highways on Oregon Route 99E, Oregon Route 99W, U.S.
 2 Highway 97, Interstate 5, Interstate 84, U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 205 honor the veterans who
 3 serve during war and peacetime; and

4 Whereas designating U.S. Highway 395 as the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway will
 5 honor for posterity all those who served during World War I; and

6 Whereas it is appropriate to designate Interstate 5 as the Korean War Veterans Memorial
 7 Highway due to its proximity to the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, which was cre-
 8 ated by the Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon and is served by Interstate 5; and

9 Whereas designating Interstate 5 also as a Purple Heart Trail will link the border to border
 10 Purple Heart Trails on Interstate 5 in California and Washington, creating the first National Purple
 11 Heart Trail in the United States connecting our nation to its neighboring countries of Canada and
 12 Mexico; and

13 Whereas the cities of Albany and Medford served by Interstate 5 were designated as Purple
 14 Heart cities in 2014; and

15 Whereas it is appropriate to designate U.S. Highway 101 as the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and
 16 Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway due to its proximity to the American Veterans and Desert Storm
 17 Memorial in Lincoln City designed and developed by Mark S. Hemstreet; and

18 Whereas designating U.S. Highway 101 as the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans
 19 Memorial Highway now as the war ends in Afghanistan, rather than waiting decades as has been
 20 done for veterans of earlier wars, will honor Oregon’s youngest combat veterans sooner; and

21 Whereas Oregon’s Korean War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan War, Iraq War and Purple Heart
 22 veterans will appreciate these new veterans memorial highways as World War II and Vietnam War
 23 veterans have appreciated their memorial highways; and

24 Whereas the existing names of U.S. Highway 395, U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 5 and any
 25 maps will not be changed by the honorary designations of these new veterans memorial highways;
 26 and

27 Whereas Oregon’s veterans have offered to pay the cost to create, install and maintain signs for
 28 each of these three border to border veterans memorial highways; now, therefore,

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

30 **SECTION 1. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning**
 31 **at the California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as**
 32 **the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway.**

33 **(2) The portion of Interstate 5, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California**
 34 **state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Korean War**
 35 **Veterans Memorial Highway, and as the Purple Heart Trail.**

36 **(3) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the**
 37 **California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the**
 38 **Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.**

39 **(4) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along**
 40 **each highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway.**

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

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

45 **SECTION 2. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**

1 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**
2 **on its passage.**

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