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Senator Brian Boquist
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court St. NE, S-311, Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Boquist and Distinguished Committee Members.

Yesterday I received HB 2100-A6 by email from Committee staff. As the requestor of this legislation, I am pleased to tell you HB 2100-A6 now properly reflects what Bend Heroes Foundation requested last year and during public hearings this year by your Committee and its counterpart Committee in the House of Representatives:

ODOT installs and maintains "Oregon Medal of Honor" signs along US Hwy 20 between Newport, Oregon and the Oregon/Idaho border with veterans groups paying ODOT for that service.

Optionally, at the request of Bend Heroes Foundation ODOT may install Medal of Honor memorial and historic markers at selected roadside rest areas and turnouts along US 20 honoring Oregon's current and future Medal of Honor recipients. Veterans groups also pay ODOT for that service.

Bend Heroes Foundation installs appropriate markers in the 12 Medal of Honor Cities/Communities named in House Concurrent Resolution 1. The Foundation coordinates designs and locations of markers with property owners and pays for the creation and installation of markers.

As I believe this legislation is a first of a kind in our nation, I am deeply appreciative of your patience in developing HB 2100-A6 to its correct form honoring Oregon's 26 Medal of Honor recipients who served during 8 wars, in 10 countries over 108 years beginning with the Civil War and ending with the Vietnam War. All current and future recipients of the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award "*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty*" during combat are recognized and honored by this historic legislation.

I am also deeply indebted to ODOT Director Matthew Garrett for his personal interest in creating a very high standard for these unique honors in our nation as other state's might choose to follow the "Oregon model" for honoring all of its current and future

Medal of Honor recipients with border to border highways and Medal of Honor Cities/Communities.

I believe HB 2100-A6 is consistent with these goals of the nonprofit Congressional Medal of Honor Society chartered by the United States Congress:

- To protect, uphold and preserve the dignity and honor of the medal at all times and on all occasions.
- To serve our country in peace as we did in war.
- To inspire and stimulate our youth to become worthy citizens of our country.
- To foster and perpetuate Americanism.

I would add goals of preserving American history and public education as additional objectives of HB 2100-A6 and HCR 1 and as stated in my testimonies and correspondence to the Legislature.

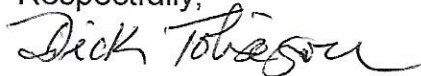
I also thank the Chief Sponsors of HB 2100 and HCR 1 for their steadfast support and encouragement throughout this unique journey: Representative John Huffman, Senator Tim Knopp, Representative Gene Whisnant, and Representative Mike McLane.

Mr. Robert D. "Bob" Maxwell of Bend is a Director of Bend Heroes Foundation and at 96, our nation's oldest of 73 living Medal of Honor recipients (5 WWII, 68 post WWII). Mr. Maxwell also thanks you and your Committee for honoring all of Oregon's current and future Medal of Honor recipients through HB 2100-A6 and HCR 1.

Thank you Chair Boquist for the opportunity to comment on HB 2100-A6 before your Committee's upcoming historic vote on HB 2100-A6.

Someone must speak for Oregon's Medal of Honor recipients and that high honor and privilege has fallen to all of us.

Respectfully,



Chairman

Cc: HB 2100 Chief Sponsors, Representative Buehler, Director Garrett, SVEP.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov, Bend Heroes Foundation