

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Provides that portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where highway intersects with U.S. Highway 101 and ending at Idaho state line, shall also be known as Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to Gold Star Families memorial highway; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 366.924.

Whereas almost 500,000 Oregonians served in our country's Armed Forces during five major wars since World War I, with about 6,000 veterans making the ultimate sacrifice; and

Whereas Gold Star Families include parents, spouses, siblings, sons and daughters of fallen war veterans, numbering as many as 15,000 family members from across Oregon over the last 104 years; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly has created many Blue Star Memorial Highways across Oregon, honoring all who have served, those who are presently serving and those who will serve in the nation's armed forces; and

Whereas Oregon does not yet have a dedicated border-to-border highway honoring its Gold Star Families; and

Whereas U.S. Highway 30, at 3,073 miles in length, is the third longest highway in our nation, crossing 11 states between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean; and

Whereas designating the border-to-border U.S. Highway 30 as the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway would help to honor and provide closure to the 6,000 Gold Star Families of Oregon's veterans who perished

during wars since World War I; and

Whereas an Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway on U.S. Highway 30, the longest highway in Oregon, would intersect with other memorial highways, thus connecting Gold Star Families of several generations and their loved ones; and

Whereas Oregon's veterans and community members have offered to finance the creation, installation and maintenance of special highway markers for the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. ORS 366.924, as amended by section 1, chapter 21, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

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

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

(3) The portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, shall also be known as the Atomic Veterans and Atomic Cleanup Veterans Memorial Highway.

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

(5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

(6) The portion of Oregon Route 35, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway 26 and ending where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway 30, shall also be known as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World

1 War II Memorial Highway.

2 **(7) The portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where the highway**
3 **intersects with U.S. Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line,**
4 **shall also be known as the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial**
5 **Highway.**

6 [(7)] **(8)** The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain
7 suitable markers along each highway described in this section to indicate the
8 designation of each highway.

9 [(8)(a)] **(9)(a)** The department may accept moneys from and may enter into
10 agreements with veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

11 (b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and
12 maintenance of the markers.

13 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 366.924 by section 1 of this**
14 **2023 Act apply to new highway markers erected on U.S. Highway 30**
15 **on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.**