



15 March 2021

The Honorable Tim Knopp
Oregon Senator
900 Court St NE, S-425
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Knopp,

Thank you for sponsoring SB 790 to designate US Hwy 30 as the Oregon Veteran's Memorial Highway. It would be the 9th border to border highway across Oregon dedicated to veterans.

As you know Dick Tobiason, Chairman of the Bend Heroes Foundation has worked tirelessly over the last 13 years to get 8 highways dedicated to our Veterans. Each one of those highways is dedicated in honor of a specific group of Veterans. While all these groups need recognized and remembered, there is still something left undone.

Our peacetime Veterans have been left out. Those Veterans whose service was between times of conflict or who served in other theaters during conflict are Veterans nonetheless. We all signed the same blank check to Uncle Sam for Any Amount, Up To and Including Our Life in defense of our country, when we joined the service.

Often our society overlooks these Veterans, leaving them wondering if their service 'counted'. The VA, VFW, and even parts of our Tax Code are examples of where these Veterans service to our country is not fully recognized. I believe Vice President Dick Chaney once said, "You go to war with the Army you've got." or something like that, and if it were not for these Veterans, there would be no Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines standing ready when duty calls.

These Veterans deserve recognition as well and the Oregon Veteran's Memorial Highway will do that.

Thanks again,

Ray A. Rose, Jr.
US Navy, Gulf War Veteran
President, Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association
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