

Senate Bill 659

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP; Senator FINDLEY (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 30 in Oregon shall be known as Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to memorial highways.

3 Whereas almost one-half million Oregonians served in the United States Armed Forces during
4 five major wars since World War I, with approximately 6,000 veterans making the ultimate sacrifice;
5 and

6 Whereas the Bend Heroes Foundation initiated legislation creating eight war-related highways
7 across Oregon-World War I Veterans Memorial Highway, World War II Veterans Historic Highway,
8 Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway, Persian Gulf,
9 Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway, Purple Heart Trail, Oregon Medal of Honor
10 Highway and POW/MIA Memorial Highway-honoring Oregon's approximately 480,000 wartime vet-
11 erans who served, died, were wounded, became prisoners of war or are missing in action; and

12 Whereas family members of fallen veterans are named Gold Star families and Gold Star mothers
13 by acts of the U.S. Congress; and

14 Whereas Gold Star families include parents, spouses, siblings, sons and daughters of fallen vet-
15 erans, numbering as many as 20,000 individuals across Oregon since World War I; and

16 Whereas display of Gold Star banners at the homes of fallen wartime veterans became an en-
17 during tradition more than a century ago during World War I; and

18 Whereas Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day was created by the U.S. Congress in 1936 to
19 honor families of veterans who lost their lives during wars, with proclamations issued by the Pres-
20 ident of the United States and annual public ceremonies conducted across our nation; and

21 Whereas display of Gold Star memorials at cemeteries and veterans monuments is now becoming
22 a reality due to the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Oregon chapter of
23 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.; and

24 Whereas the State of Oregon has not dedicated a border-to-border highway honoring its Gold
25 Star families; and

26 Whereas designating U.S. Highway 30 as the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway would help
27 to fulfill the mission of American Gold Star Mothers and National Garden Clubs to honor and help
28 give closure to the families of Oregon's nearly 6,000 veterans who perished during wars since World
29 War I; and

30 Whereas a Gold Star Families Memorial Highway on U.S. Highway 30 would intersect with
31 other Oregon war memorial highways, connecting Gold Star families of several generations; 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 designating the 477-mile portion of U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon as Gold Star Families
2 Memorial Highway will neither change existing designations of U.S. Highway 30 nor require maps
3 to be changed; and

4 Whereas Oregon's veterans and other patriots have offered to finance the creation, installation
5 and maintenance of special markers for the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway; now, therefore,

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) **The portion of U.S. Highway 30, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning**
8 **at its intersection with U.S. Highway 101 in Astoria and ending at the Idaho state line, shall**
9 **also be known as the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.**

10 (2) **The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along**
11 **the highway described in this section that indicate the designation of the highway as the Gold**
12 **Star Families Memorial Highway.**

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

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

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