

April 19, 2023

Dear Senator Manning,

I am Becky Cook, the Oregon State Federation Of Garden Clubs Chaplain and a military wife and widow. I am writing to request that Hwy 30 be designated the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway (HB 2146A).

It is our service men and women – those who are currently serving; those who have served; and those that will answer the call and come to serve to which we owe our respect, gratitude and honor. It is their dedication to God, Country & Duty that allows us the freedoms we enjoy. And let us not forget that it is also the families that serve. Packing up home & family to follow the active duty member across this great country or around the world isn't easy. It takes a special type of person to hold a military family together – the box of curtains you take from base to base because the windows in housing are never the same size; explaining to your children that they are leaving friends, yet once again, and how they will, once again, make new friends at the next base. We had to explain to our young son when we PCS'd from Germany that “the States” was not another planet. He told his younger sister it was. Because his friends who went to “the States” got on an airplane, flew into the sky and he never saw them again. That took a map of the world to explain.

Our military members & their families experience the joys of new places to see; making friendships that last the test of time & distance – and also the tears and heartache of separation that duty and service bring. We have been blessed with men and women who answer the call for God and Country with honor, commitment and courage. Let us give thanks for those families who support and serve with them. For God, Country and Duty, men and women of honor, commitment, and courage, and their families, gave given many sacrifices to this great Country.

Please give the request for Hwy 30 to be designated a National Gold Star Families Highway your full support.

Sincerely,
Becky Cook
Chaplain, Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc,