

Testimony to the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee

HB 2146 A 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.

Position: **Favorable**

March 20, 2023

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher

Senate Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

CC: Honorable Members of the Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs Committee

My name is John Lee, and I am a military veteran with 20 years of service with the United States Army. I am a resident of Brownsville, Oregon, and submit this testimony as the Legislative Commission Chair representing The American Legion, Department of Oregon representing over 100 posts with over 12,000 members.

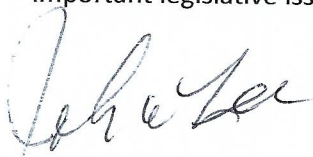
The American Legion, Department of Oregon strongly supports HB 2146 A.

The Gold Star Families began during World War I out of the blue star banners that were hung in windows of homes to show that they had a family member serving overseas. If that member was killed in action, the family would replace the blue star with a gold star. Today there are Gold Star memorial through the United States. Here in Oregon these memorials represent close to 6000 Gold Star Families of veterans who perished during wars since World War I.

Designating 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. It will bring awareness to every occupant of vehicles travelling on highway 30.

On behalf of The American Legion, Department of Oregon and our state's Veterans, the Legion urges the committee to support HB 2146 A and the honor it will bring to Gold Star Families.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide The American Legion, Department of Oregon, position on this important legislative issue.



John Lee

The American Legion, Department of Oregon
Legislative Commission Chair