

Thank you, Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher and committee members, for this opportunity to testify to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs today in support of HB 2146A.

If adopted as law, US Hwy 30 across Oregon would be designated as Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway honoring over 6,000 Oregon Gold Star families.

My name is Gordon Treber. I live in Astoria where the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway on US Highway 101 and US Highway 30 intersect.

I am a 26 year Veteran of the United States Navy and the father of Army Sgt. James M. Treber.

James was a member of Company A,  
1st Battalion  
7th Special Forces Group based at Fort Bragg, NC  
and served in Afghanistan

While on patrol, James made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan almost 15 years ago on 29 June 2008.

James was posthumously awarded the Soldier's medal for Heroism for his actions that saved a fellow soldier's life.

James' death created the Treber Gold Star Family: his mother and I, his grandmother, brother, sisters, and his wife.

To honor James's service and sacrifice and help comfort his family, I donated one of 11 Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway signs installed on US Hwy 101. That highway was initiated by Bend Heroes Foundation Chairman Dick Tobiason. I see that sign almost on a daily basis and it is a reminder to honor those who served.

I met Dick Tobiason when we unveiled James's name at the Afghan - Iraq Veterans Memorial on the ODVA grounds here in Salem.

Now he has requested the Legislature through HB 2146 to honor Oregon's 6,000 Gold Star Families by designating the 477 mile US Hwy 30 across Oregon as the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.

The Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway intersects all 5 war highways and connects us Gold Star Families with our 6,022 loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice beginning with WWI 106 years ago.

As the Finance Officer of American Legion Post 99 in Seaside and the Treasurer of the American Legion Riders in Seaside, I am prepared to raise donations from several American Legion Posts to fund the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway sign in Astoria, where that highway, the third longest highway in our

nation begins and will be another reminder to honor a significant life changing event for the families of the fallen.

As a proud Gold Star Father, I respectfully urge this committee to vote unanimously in favor of HB 2146A

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of not only my family, but the many other families still finding peace.

I would be pleased to answer any questions committee members may have.

Respectfully.

Gordon Treber  
Gold Star Father  
Astoria, OR