

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0009

Medal of Honor highway.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pappas

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating United States Highway 20 as
2 the Medal of Honor Highway.

3

4 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is our nation's highest award for
5 valor presented to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United
6 States for acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity
7 above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of one's life
8 during combat with an enemy of the United States; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is widely respected by the
11 military and public alike; and

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13 WHEREAS, Wyoming has been home to seventeen (17) Medal of
14 Honor recipients from the United States Army, United States
15 Navy and United States Marine Corps who served in five (5)
16 wars from the Civil War to the Vietnam War, over a period of
17 one hundred seven (107) years; and

1

2 WHEREAS, the following Medal of Honor recipients are
3 connected with Wyoming: William Doolen, Civil War; Thomas
4 Harding, Civil War; Allen Thompson, Civil War; Francis
5 Warren, Civil War; Charles Bessey, Indian War Campaigns;
6 William Bryan, Indian War Campaigns; Thomas Forsyth, Indian
7 War Campaigns; William Lewis, Indian War Campaigns; John
8 McLennon, Indian War Campaigns; John Merrill, Indian War
9 Campaigns; Patrick Rogan, Indian War Campaigns; Edward Baker
10 Jr., Spanish American War; Charles Roberts, Spanish American
11 War; Vernon Baker, WWII; Charles Carey Jr., WWII; Donald Ruhl,
12 WWII and William Adams, Vietnam War; and

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14 WHEREAS, Wyoming's seventeen (17) Medal of Honor recipients
15 resided in, entered service from, or were laid to rest in
16 seven (7) Wyoming cities including Casper, Cheyenne,
17 Greybull, Laramie, Powder River and Rock Springs; and

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19 WHEREAS, during 2017 the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation and
20 the Oregon Legislature created a law designating all four
21 hundred fifty-one (451) miles of the border to border U.S.
22 Highway 20 in Oregon as the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway, a

1 first in our nation to honor all of a state's Medal of Honor
2 recipients; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway with twelve (12)
5 signs already installed is located on U.S. Highway 20, the
6 longest highway in our nation between the Pacific and Atlantic
7 Oceans and which crosses twelve (12) states including
8 Wyoming; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Oregon law suggested a first ever national Medal
11 of Honor Highway would be created if all twelve (12) states
12 through which U.S. Highway 20 traverses designate border to
13 border Medal of Honor Highways in their states; and

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15 WHEREAS, Wyoming has not dedicated a border to border highway
16 to honor all of Wyoming's Medal of Honor recipients or other
17 veterans; and

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19 WHEREAS, a five hundred thirty-two (532) mile border to border
20 Wyoming Medal of Honor Highway on U.S. Highway 20 would honor
21 Wyoming's current and future Medal of Honor recipients and
22 also facilitate a National Medal of Honor Highway across
23 America honoring nearly sixty percent (60%) of all three

1 thousand five hundred five (3,505) recipients of the Medal of
2 Honor since it was created by the U.S. Congress and President
3 Abraham Lincoln one hundred fifty-six (156) years ago; and

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5 WHEREAS, Wyoming deeply appreciates the service and sacrifice
6 of its Medal of Honor recipients and the positive roles they
7 have played in their communities for more than one hundred
8 (100) years; and

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10 WHEREAS, Wyoming's veterans have offered to pay the cost to
11 create and install the "Wyoming Medal of Honor Highway" signs.

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13 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
14 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

15

16 **Section 1.** The entire portion of U.S. Highway 20
17 beginning at the Montana/Wyoming border and ending at the
18 Wyoming/Nebraska border shall also be known as the Wyoming
19 Medal of Honor Highway, honoring current and future Medal of
20 Honor recipients.

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22 **Section 2.** The Wyoming Department of Transportation
23 shall place and maintain suitable markers, including display

1 of the three (3) versions of Medal of Honor medal along U.S.
2 Highway 20 that designate the highway as the Wyoming Medal of
3 Honor Highway.

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5 **Section 3.** The Wyoming Department of Transportation may
6 accept monies from and may enter into agreements with veterans
7 and other groups to create, install and maintain the signs.

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9 **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
10 transmit copies of this resolution to the Wyoming Department
11 of Transportation, the Wyoming Veterans' Commission, the
12 Federal Highway Administration and the Purple Heart
13 Foundation.

14

15

(END)