

Senate Bill 790

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP (at the request of LTC Dick Tobiason)

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 portion of U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon shall also be known as Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to memorial highways; creating new provisions; amending ORS 366.924; and prescribing an
3 effective date.

4 Whereas Oregon is presently home to about 303,700 living veterans; and

5 Whereas almost a half million Oregonians have served in the Armed Forces of the United States
6 during wars from World War I to the present; and

7 Whereas Oregon's war casualties from World War I to the present include almost 6,000 dead,
8 15,000 wounded, almost 1,000 Prisoners of War, 999 Missing in Action and 30 Medal of Honor re-
9 cipients; and

10 Whereas over the last 12 years the Bend Heroes Foundation initiated legislation honoring nearly
11 a half million Oregon war veterans of the Armed Forces from World War I to the present with eight
12 border-to-border veterans highways displaying over 90 large highway signs installed at no expense
13 to taxpayers; and

14 Whereas Bend Heroes Foundation is coordinating the designation of 11 state Medal of Honor
15 Highways east of Oregon across the United States on U.S. Highway 20; and

16 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon, at 477 miles in length between Astoria and Ontario, is the
17 longest border-to-border highway in Oregon; and

18 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in Oregon is the only border-to-border highway not now designated
19 to honor veterans; and

20 Whereas U.S. Highway 30, at 3,073 miles in length, spans our nation from Astoria, Oregon, to
21 Atlantic City, New Jersey, traversing 11 states with Oregon's segment the longest, and is the third
22 longest highway in our nation; and

23 Whereas the designation of U.S. Highway 30 as an Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway will
24 honor all past, present and future wartime and peacetime veterans connected with Oregon and might
25 encourage similar designations of state Veterans Memorial Highways across the United States; and

26 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 in part overlaps the 377 mile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway
27 for most of its length and the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway for about 22 miles; and

28 Whereas U.S. Highway 30 has numerous historic names that will be preserved with the desig-
29 nation of the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway; and

30 Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States presently includes the United States Army,
31 Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and Army and Air Force National Guard;

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 and

2 Whereas Oregon’s veterans have offered to finance the fabrication, installation and maintenance
 3 of special markers for the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway; now, therefore,

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.924 is amended to read:

6 366.924. (1) The portion of U.S. Highway 395, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the
 7 California state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the World War
 8 I Veterans Memorial Highway.

9 (2) The portion of Interstate 5, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California state
 10 line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Korean War Veterans
 11 Memorial Highway, and as the Purple Heart Trail.

12 (3) The portion of Interstate 5, beginning in Albany and ending in Salem, shall also be known
 13 as the Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.

14 (4) The portion of U.S. Highway 101, crossing the State of Oregon, beginning at the California
 15 state line and ending at the Washington state line, shall also be known as the Persian Gulf,
 16 Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

17 (5) The portion of U.S. Highway 26, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S. Highway
 18 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

19 **(6) The portion of U.S. Highway 30, beginning where the highway intersects with U.S.**
 20 **Highway 101 and ending at the Idaho state line, shall also be known as the Oregon Veterans**
 21 **Memorial Highway.**

22 [(6)] (7) The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers along each
 23 highway described in this section to indicate the designation of each highway. **After receiving ap-**
 24 **proval from the United States Department of Defense, the department shall include military**
 25 **service seals on all highway markers representing:**

- 26 (a) **The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States;**
- 27 (b) **The Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Air National Guard; and**
- 28 (c) **The United States Space Force.**

29 [(7)(a)] (8)(a) The department may accept moneys from and may enter into agreements with
 30 veterans groups to create, install and maintain the markers.

31 (b) The department may not use public funds for the installation and maintenance of the mark-
 32 ers.

33 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 366.924 by section 1 of this 2021 Act apply to high-**
 34 **way markers erected on or after the effective date of this 2021 Act.**

35 **SECTION 3. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021**
 36 **regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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