

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 717

2 INTRODUCED BY M. WEATHERWAX, B. BENNETT, K. DUDIK, S. MORIGEAU, D. SALOMON,
3 D. ZOLNIKOV

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LOUIS CHARLES CHARLO MEMORIAL
6 HIGHWAY IN MISSOULA COUNTY; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL
7 SIGNS AT THE LOCATION AND TO INCLUDE THE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ON THE NEXT PUBLICATION OF
8 THE STATE HIGHWAY MAP; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
9 EFFECTIVE DATE."

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11 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo, a U.S. Marine from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,
12 helped raise the first flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi following the World War II battle; and

13 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was born September 26, 1926, the son of Mary and Antoine Charlo;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo's great grandfather was Chief Charlo, the head chief of the Bitterroot
16 Salish from 1870 to 1910; and

17 WHEREAS, the Battle of Iwo Jima was a major battle in which the U.S. Marine Corps landed on and
18 eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was killed as he was attempting to rescue Private Ed McLaughlin, a
20 wounded soldier stranded in an area of the Iwo Jima battlefield known as the Meat Grinder; and

21 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was carrying McLaughlin on his back and both were killed just a few
22 feet from safety; and

23 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo received the Bronze Star for his heroics on Iwo Jima; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Mike Mansfield, then a U.S. Representative, traveled to Iwo Jima in 1948 and
25 escorted Louis Charles Charlo's body back to Montana; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Max Baucus had Louis Charles Charlo's Bronze Star upgraded to a Silver Star in
27 recognition of Charlo's distinguished and honorable actions defending our country's freedoms; and

28 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo is now buried at the Saint Ignatius Old Catholic Cemetery, Lake
29 County, Montana; and

30 WHEREAS, the 66th Legislature of the State of Montana honors Louis Charles Charlo.

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2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway.** (1) There is established the
5 Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 93 north from mile marker 7 to mile marker
6 9.

7 (2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Louis Charles
8 Charlo memorial highway.

9 (3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Louis Charles
10 Charlo memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

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12 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$1 from the general fund to the
13 department of transportation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, for the purpose of [section 1].

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15 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
16 integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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18 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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