

ORIGINAL SENATE  
JOINT RESOLUTION. SJ0009

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3, SENATE

SIXTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2019 GENERAL SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, during 2017 the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation and the Oregon Legislature created a law designating all four hundred fifty-one (451) miles of the border to border U.S. Highway 20 in Oregon as the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway, a first in our nation to honor all of a state's Medal of Honor recipients; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a five hundred thirty-two (532) mile border to border Wyoming Medal of Honor Highway on U.S. Highway 20 would honor Wyoming's current and future Medal of Honor recipients and also facilitate a National Medal of Honor Highway across America honoring nearly sixty percent (60%) of all three thousand five hundred five (3,505) recipients of the Medal of Honor since it was created by the U.S. Congress and President Abraham Lincoln one hundred fifty-six (156) years ago; and

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

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

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

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

**Section 2.** The Wyoming Department of Transportation shall place and maintain suitable markers, including display of the three (3) versions of Medal of Honor medal along U.S. Highway 20 that designate the highway as the Wyoming Medal of Honor Highway.

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

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

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk