

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the implications and feasibility of adopting special signage to designate streets, highways, and bridges in honor of members of the United States Armed Services.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana owes an eternal debt of gratitude to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's state and local governments often honor military heroes and their services by naming streets and highways after them and their distinctions; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish has used special signage to designate its most recent street, John Petterway, Jr. Boulevard, in honor of local military hero John Petterway, Jr.; a stretch of Interstate 20 in Caddo and Bossier parishes is also named Purple Heart Highway; and

WHEREAS, other examples include the Gramercy Bridge that connects St. James Parish with St. John the Baptist Parish, which is known as the Veterans Memorial Bridge; the Purple Heart Memorial Bridge that crosses Red River in Rapides Parish; Veterans Memorial Boulevard near the Baton Rouge Metro Airport in East Baton Rouge Parish; and one of the most well-known and frequently traveled roads in the New Orleans-metro area, Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Jefferson Parish; and

WHEREAS, these and many other roads, highways, and bridges throughout the state are named after and dedicated in honor of our military veterans to extend enduring appreciation for their inspiring display of patriotism, to recognize the pride and honor they bring to local areas and the entire state, and to honor their commitment and dedication to their country, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom; and

WHEREAS, naming roads and highways in honor of military veterans is a fitting way to pay tribute to these brave members of the armed forces, particularly those who have given their lives for their country, and to acknowledge the heroic deeds of those who fight for freedom every day at home and abroad.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the feasibility and practicality of naming state roads, highways, and bridges in honor of military veterans and does hereby request that the department report their findings to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works at least thirty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall receive input and counsel from the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs while conducting the study and preparing the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall utilize the signage that is currently being used in Caddo Parish, such as the John Petteyway, Jr. Boulevard, as an example in naming roads and highways in honor of military personnel for the purpose of this study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES