



*Central Oregon Chapter Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 7826, Bend Oregon 97708*

April , 2023

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs _April_, 2023

Thank you, Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher and committee members, for this opportunity to testify to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs today in support of HB 2146A. If adopted as law, US Hwy 30 across Oregon would be designated as **Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** honoring over 6,000 Oregon Gold Star families.

I am Alfred J "Jim" Woodbridge, President of the Central Oregon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (COMOAA). Our chapter strongly endorses the request being led by COMOAA member LTC Dick Tobiason, Chairman of the Bend Heroes Foundation designating US Highway 30 the **Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway**. Gold Star Families live everyday with the memories of lost loved ones who gave their lives in the service of our country; the highway designation will be a lasting tribute to them. We should never forget these families that have sacrificed so much. During my 28 years in the Army, I served two tours in West Germany, 1970s and 1980s fighting the "Cold War" and one in Korea. Military families are the backbone of our deployed military members; we can never truly repay those who have lost a son, daughter, husband, wife, mother or father in service to our country. The Gold Star Highway is a small token of our appreciation.

Oregon's 6,022 war dead left 6,022 families behind. They are called Gold Star Families with some named as Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives by the U.S. Congress. There could be as many as 15,000 Oregon Gold Star family members including parents, siblings, spouses, sons, and daughters.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2146A to this Committee today. I urge the Committee to recommend a Do Pass vote as the Committee has done for 8 veterans' highways over the last 14 years.

Sincerely,

Alfred J Woodbridge, Colonel, (Ret) USA

President, Central Oregon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America