



Gold Star Wives of America, Inc

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SB 659, HB 2146 HB 3000 and HB 3001

We are the Willamette Valley Chapter of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. DBA Gold Star Spouses and want to express our full support for the proposed designation of Highway 30 to be called the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway.

Briefly, my story is like so many other members of our chapter. My husband was killed in 1984 when I was pregnant with our 5th child. My two youngest children served in the USAF, my youngest daughter enlisted when she was 19, and just retired from the Reserves. When she married, she carried her father's dog tags in her bouquet. My youngest son served for six years as an officer. While that child never got to see his father, I arranged for him to be pinned as a USAF Captain with his father's USMC Captain bars.

As we know, "those serve who also stand and wait". In Oregon there are over 6000 spouses receiving benefits because they have lost their loved one due to their service. That does not begin to count the number of children, siblings, parents, grandparents and other family members who have been affected by the loss of their service member. In particular, adult Gold Star Children, will have a remembrance of the parent that was lost and the recognition that their lives were forever changed.

To have this highway designation will help all of these family members in their healing process and acknowledge the gratitude that we all feel for the families left behind.

While our service member paid the ultimate price for our freedom, as family members we continue to live that price each and every day for the rest of our lives.

We are very grateful to all who support this designation. Please know how very deeply it will affect all of our families.

Sincerely,

Nancy Menagh

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President Emeritus of

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Proud widow of Captain Philip S. Menagh, USMC