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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4007

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Muri, Ryu, Appleton, Sells, Kilduff, Lovick, and Barkis

Read first time 01/19/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            TO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON STATE  
2 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 TRANSPORTATION:

4            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
6 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

7            WHEREAS, Thousands of United States military veterans live and  
8 work near and travel through the South Sound region on Interstate 5  
9 (I-5) by the Nisqually River on its northbound and southbound  
10 bridges; and

11           WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Veterans  
12 Affairs, 593,350 veterans currently reside in Washington State; and

13           WHEREAS, According to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of  
14 America, there are 2.4 million veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan  
15 conflicts nationwide; and

16           WHEREAS, Veterans from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Bangor  
17 Sub Base, Bremerton Naval Station, and others served honorably in the  
18 Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, some of whom died or were injured  
19 during the 14 to 16 years of on-going operations there; and

20           WHEREAS, The northbound and southbound bridges over the Nisqually  
21 River on I-5 are currently unnamed; and

1       WHEREAS, Signage on these bridges would be a visible display of  
2 honor and gratitude for active duty, former, and retired veterans of  
3 the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and their families; and

4       WHEREAS, We recognize that these veterans protected our freedom  
5 with their duty, honor, and selfless service; and

6       WHEREAS, This signage would also serve as a reminder to motorists  
7 of the sacrifices made by service members of the Army, Navy, Marine  
8 Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard assigned to various military bases  
9 worldwide and in the Evergreen State; and

10       WHEREAS, This recognition is merely a small way of saying, "Thank  
11 you for your service";

12       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
13 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to  
14 name the northbound I-5 bridge over the Nisqually River, the  
15 "Afghanistan Veterans Bridge," and the southbound I-5 bridge over the  
16 Nisqually River, the "Iraq Veterans Bridge," with permanent signage  
17 affixed to the bridges.

18       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
19 transmitted to the Secretary of Transportation, the Washington State  
20 Transportation Commission, and the Washington State Department of  
21 Transportation.

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