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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8024

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Carrell, Rasmussen, Kastama, Swecker, Franklin, Schmidt  
and Regala

Read first time . Referred to .

1            TO THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS B. MACDONALD, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,  
2            AND TO THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE  
3            WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

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

7            WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade, formed in 1968, is a unit of the  
8            Washington Army National Guard and includes armored, infantry, and  
9            cavalry battalions; and

10           WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade is composed of 4,000 Guardsmen,  
11           including 3,400 men and women from Washington state; and

12           WHEREAS, The 81st Armor Brigade was redesignated the 81st Brigade  
13           Combat Team prior to deployment; and

14           WHEREAS, The 81st Brigade Combat Team traveled to Fort Irwin,  
15           California and the National Training Center in February of 2004 to  
16           prepare for their deployment; and

17           WHEREAS, Immediately thereafter, the 81st Brigade Combat Team was  
18           deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia; and

19           WHEREAS, Members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team were stationed at

1 locations across Iraq, including Mosul, Balad, Baghdad, the  
2 International Airport, and various other locations in southern Iraq,  
3 including Tallil Air Base; and

4 WHEREAS, The 81st Brigade Combat Team distinguished themselves by  
5 successfully conducting 9,075 combat patrols, 77 combat raids, 197  
6 cordon and searches, and participated in 162 combat engagements; and

7 WHEREAS, The last large group of the 81st Brigade Combat Team  
8 returned on March 31, 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, The month of March also marked the return of several other  
10 smaller, though no less important Washington Army National Guard units,  
11 including the 116th and 248th Rear Area Operations Centers, members of  
12 the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, the 122nd Mobile Public  
13 Affairs Detachment, and Field Support Team Favero of the Information  
14 Operations Support Center; and

15 WHEREAS, Two hundred soldiers suffered injury or illness; and

16 WHEREAS, We will never forget the ten soldiers from the 81st  
17 Brigade who were killed in combat; and

18 WHEREAS, The citizens of Washington state wish to acknowledge and  
19 memorialize their gratitude to all of the members of the 81st Brigade  
20 Combat Team who served their country so courageously and honorably;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
22 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to name  
23 the Berkeley Street crossing of Interstate Five in the city of Lakewood  
24 the "Freedom Bridge."

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
26 transmitted to the Honorable Douglas MacDonald, Secretary of  
27 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and the  
28 Washington State Department of Transportation.

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