

HOUSE BILL NO. 73

INTRODUCED BY PAVLOVICH

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PORTION OF MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY 78, FROM COLUMBUS THROUGH ABSAROKEE AND ROSCOE TO RED LODGE, AS THE DONALD J. RUHL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY."

WHEREAS, Donald Jack Ruhl was born in Columbus, Montana, on July 2, 1923, and graduated from high school in Joliet, Montana, in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl was known and admired by employers, friends, and family as a hard-working, responsible, and dedicated youth; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on September 12, 1942, entered active duty on the same day, and began military service in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl, as a Marine recruit, demonstrated physical abilities as a sharpshooter, combat swimmer, boxer, all-around athlete, and model soldier; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl was promoted to Private First Class on December 19, 1942, and, within 5 weeks, had completed training and was certified as a qualified parachutist with Company "C", Third Parachute Battalion, Third Marine Division; and

WHEREAS, PFC Ruhl sailed aboard the USS Mount Vernon on March 12, 1943, as a mortar crewman, enroute to New Caledonia; and

WHEREAS, in September 1943, PFC Ruhl, as a member of the renamed Company "L", Third Parachute Battalion, First Marine Parachute Regiment, First Marine Amphibious Corps, sailed for the island of Guadalcanal aboard the USS American Legion, the first of several voyages in campaigns throughout the Pacific theater; and

WHEREAS, PFC Ruhl began a last series of voyages in January 1945, sailing from Hilo, Hawaii, through the Hawaiian Islands, to Saipan and eventually to the shores of Iwo Jima, where, on February 19, 1945, D-Day on Iwo Jima, PFC Donald J. Ruhl and the Marines landed and joined the battle; and

WHEREAS, with 24 hours of landing on Iwo Jima, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, ever valiant, single-handedly seized a blockhouse by routing the enemy and, subsequently, rescued a wounded, fellow Marine from enemy mortar and machine gun fire, thereby saving the Marine's life; and

1 WHEREAS, following that heroic effort, PFC Donald J. Ruhl returned to the unit, volunteered to
2 investigate an enemy gun emplacement, and occupied the position through the night; and

3 WHEREAS, on the morning of February 21, 1945, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, with a platoon guide,
4 assisted an advance of "E" Company, Twenty-Eighth Marines, against enemy fortifications at the base of
5 Mount Suribachi where, under heavy fire, the two Marines were targeted with an enemy grenade; and

6 WHEREAS, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, the selfless soldier, instantly called a warning to the other Marine,
7 dived upon the deadly missile, absorbed the full charge of the exploding grenade, and saved the life of a
8 friend and the lives of other nearby Marines; and

9 WHEREAS, 2 days later, "E" Company raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi, an event that
10 was made possible in part by the heroic action and death of PFC Donald J. Ruhl; and

11 WHEREAS, PFC Donald J. Ruhl was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for
12 bravery and heroism, which award was presented to PFC Donald J. Ruhl's parents on January 12, 1947.

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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16 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Donald J. Ruhl medal of honor highway.** The portion of Montana state
17 highway 78, from Columbus through Absarokee and Roscoe to Red Lodge, is established as the Donald J.
18 Ruhl medal of honor highway.

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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
21 integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to
22 [section 1].

23

-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for HB0073, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act establishing a portion of Montana State Highway 78, from Columbus through Absarokee and Roscoe to Red Lodge, as the Donald J. Ruhl Medal Of Honor Highway.

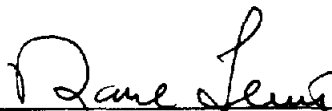
ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Signs would be placed designating the memorial: one sign at or near the Intersection with US 212 and one sign placed at or near the Intersection with I 90 near Columbus. The size of the sign would be similar to existing memorial signs (single pole installation).
2. Signs would be installed under contract, consistent with current Department practice for installation of new signs.

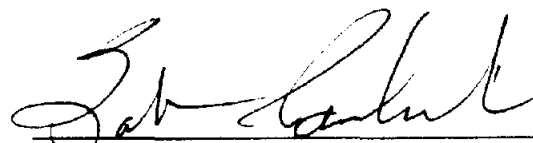
FISCAL IMPACT:

Department of Transportation
Maintenance Program

	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	1,200	0
Highway Special Revenues (02)	1,200	0

 1-2-95

DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning



BOB PAVLOVICH, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0073, as introduced

HB 73

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

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9 from high school in Joliet, Montana, in 1942; and

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11 hard-working, responsible, and dedicated youth; and

12 WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on September 12, 1942, entered
13 active duty on the same day, and began military service in San Diego, California; and

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15 combat swimmer, boxer, all-around athlete, and model soldier; and

16 WHEREAS, Donald J. Ruhl was promoted to Private First Class on December 19, 1942, and, within
17 5 weeks, had completed training and was certified as a qualified parachutist with Company "C", Third
18 Parachute Battalion, Third Marine Division; and

19 WHEREAS, PFC Ruhl sailed aboard the USS Mount Vernon on March 12, 1943, as a mortar
20 crewman, enroute to New Caledonia; and

21 WHEREAS, in September 1943, PFC Ruhl, as a member of the renamed Company "L", Third
22 Parachute Battalion, First Marine Parachute Regiment, First Marine Amphibious Corps, sailed for the island
23 of Guadalcanal aboard the USS American Legion, the first of several voyages in campaigns throughout the
24 Pacific theater; and

25 WHEREAS, PFC Ruhl began a last series of voyages in January 1945, sailing from Hilo, Hawaii,
26 through the Hawaiian Islands, to Saipan and eventually to the shores of Iwo Jima, where, on February 19,
27 1945, D-Day on Iwo Jima, PFC Donald J. Ruhl and the Marines landed and joined the battle; and

28 WHEREAS, with 24 hours of landing on Iwo Jima, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, ever valiant, single-handedly
29 seized a blockhouse by routing the enemy and, subsequently, rescued a wounded, fellow Marine from
30 enemy mortar and machine gun fire, thereby saving the Marine's life; and

1 WHEREAS, following that heroic effort, PFC Donald J. Ruhl returned to the unit, volunteered to
2 investigate an enemy gun emplacement, and occupied the position through the night; and

3 WHEREAS, on the morning of February 21, 1945, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, with a platoon guide,
4 assisted an advance of "E" Company, Twenty-Eighth Marines, against enemy fortifications at the base of
5 Mount Suribachi where, under heavy fire, the two Marines were targeted with an enemy grenade; and

6 WHEREAS, PFC Donald J. Ruhl, the selfless soldier, instantly called a warning to the other Marine,
7 dived upon the deadly missile, absorbed the full charge of the exploding grenade, and saved the life of a
8 friend and the lives of other nearby Marines; and

9 WHEREAS, 2 days later, "E" Company raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi, an event that
10 was made possible in part by the heroic action and death of PFC Donald J. Ruhl; and

11 WHEREAS, PFC Donald J. Ruhl was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for
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-END-

SENATE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AMENDMENT

February 1, 1995 3:11 pm

Mr. Chairman: I move to amend HB 73 (third reading copy -- blue).

ADOPT

REJECT

Signed: 
Senator Halligan


That such amendments read:

1. Page 1, line 15.
Strike: "soldier"
Insert: "Marine"
2. Page 1, line 28.
Strike: "with"
Insert: "within"

-END-

HB 73

SENATE

 Amd. Coord.

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