

RESOLUTION NO. 741

WHEREAS, *The state of Washington owes a lasting debt of gratitude to those who gave their lives in service to secure the blessings of liberty and protect our way of life; and*

WHEREAS, *A debt of gratitude is also owed to our Gold Star Mothers, who derive their origin from World War I when mothers of service members lost during the war came together in support of one another in their grief; and were formally recognized by the United States Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 on June 23, 1936 designating the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day”; and*

WHEREAS, *The term Gold Star has been expanded over the years to include all immediate family members left with the heavy burden of loss upon the death of a son or daughter, a spouse, a mother, a father, or a sibling while serving in the nation's armed forces; and*

WHEREAS, *The Eastern Washington Veterans Task Force, the state's oldest military and veteran support coalition sponsored this naming to remember and honor these heroes and offer support for survivor families; and*

WHEREAS, *Veterans cemeteries uphold the sacred trust of honoring veterans and their families with a lasting tribute that commemorates their service and sacrifice to our nation; and*

WHEREAS, *The Washington State Veterans Cemetery serves as a final resting place, whose purpose is to inter and memorialize fallen members of our nation's armed forces and veterans, in a national shrine honoring their military service, and serve as a solemn refuge to reflect on these lives that meant so much; and*

WHEREAS, *State Route 902 is the primary highway leading to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, and the last mile military members and veterans will journey to their final repose, accompanied by those closest to them; and*

WHEREAS, *It is of highest importance to honor the lives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, keeping their memory alive, and recognizing the surviving families left behind who visit the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Washington State Transportation Commission designates State Route 902 the “Gold Star Memorial Highway”.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *that the Washington State Transportation Commission requests that the Washington State Department of Transportation provide signage reflecting this naming designation, as soon as possible.*

ADOPTED this 16th of September, 2020.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JERRY LITT, Chairman

ROY JENNINGS, Vice-Chairman

SHIV BATRA, Member

HESTER SEREBRIN, Member

DEBBIE YOUNG, Member

JAMES A. RESTUCCI, Member

KELLY FUKAI, Member

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Executive Director

Assistant Attorney General