

RESOLUTION NO. 747

WHEREAS, On August 13, 1961, Spokane County Sheriff's Office Deputy Joseph M. O'Connor was struck and killed by a drunk driver while directing traffic on Interstate 90 following several collisions involving nine cars just east of the Argonne Exit, in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, The drunk driver entered the area of the accident scene at a high rate of speed and struck Deputy O'Connor, killing him instantly. The suspect was apprehended and convicted of negligent homicide; and

WHEREAS, Deputy O'Connor had served with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for one year at the time of his death, and was survived by his wife Ruth, and three children Roxanne, Julie Anne, and Joseph as well as his two brothers, John and Eugene; and

WHEREAS, Deputy O'Connor was born in Spokane and was a veteran of World War II and received the Medal of Honor from the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Deputy O'Connor was well known as the athletic director for the Spokane Elks Club, noting he was an expert swimming instructor; and

WHEREAS, in 1961 the Spokane County Sheriffs Office erected a 60-foot flagpole at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds in memory of Deputy O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, Spokane's Fallen Officers Memorial Committee acknowledges the service and sacrifice of fallen law enforcement officers through signage nearest the location an officer has lost their life.

NOW, THERESFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington State Transportation Commission does hereby name the Interstate 90 / Argonne Interchange which includes a bridge for Argonne Road at approximately Interstate 90 MP 287.83 and a bridge for Mullan Road at approximately Interstate 90 MP 287.88, the "Deputy Joseph M. O'Connor Memorial Overpass".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Transportation Commission requests the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide signage to be viewable by Interstate 90 east bound traffic, and signage to be viewable by Interstate 90 west bound traffic.

ADOPTED this 15th day of March 2023

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ROY JENNINGS, Chair

DEBBIE YOUNG, Vice-Chair

JERRY LITT, Member

SHIV BATRA, Member

JAMES A. RESTUCCI, Member

KELLY FUKAI, Member

NICOLE GRANT, Member

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Executive Director

Assistant Attorney General