



# Warren Petryk

State Representative • 93rd Assembly District

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**TO:** Assembly Committee on Transportation

**FROM:** Representative Warren Petryk

**DATE:** October 10, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Assembly Bill 409 relating to: designating a bridge in Pierce County as the Bridge of Valor.

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Thank you Chairwoman VanderMeer and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 409.

I am introducing Assembly Bill 409 along with Senator Stafsholt to memorialize those who've made the ultimate sacrifice to defend others. This bill is about renaming the section of US 63 in Pierce County, known to locals as the Red Wing Bridge which crosses the Mississippi River and connects to Hagar City, as the 'Eisenhower Bridge of Valor.' This change would bring Wisconsin in line with Minnesota, who made the same move in 2019.

The bridge was originally named the 'Eisenhower Memorial Bridge', in honor of President Eisenhower, who played a significant role in World War II. However, a community group from both Wisconsin and Minnesota got together and proposed a name change to simply 'Eisenhower Bridge of Valor', driven by unity and a deep appreciation for our heroes in the armed services, law enforcement, and emergency services.

Thank you again for your time and support of Assembly Bill 409 and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.