



Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 521

Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

February 6th, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Tomczyk and committee members for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 521, legislation that would add the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to future state highway maps. I'd also like to thank my co-author Senator Hesselbein for her work on this legislation.

We authored this bill after a request from Mount Horeb VFW Post 9511, Mount Horeb American Legion Post 113, and the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV. We are excited to see Mount Horeb's Memorial join 16 other Veterans' Memorials that are statutorily included on the state's highway map.

Thank you again, Chairman Tomczyk for the opportunity to testify before this committee and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



DIANNE H. HESSELBEIN

STATE SENATOR • SENATE DISTRICT 27

Testimony of Senator Dianne Hesselbein
Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government
SB 521: identification of the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial on state highway maps.
February 6, 2024

Chairman Tomczyk and members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 521. I am honored to have this chance to advocate on behalf of Mount Horeb veterans who have worked to create an impressive Memorial in the community.

It's truly fitting that this memorial welcomes drivers into a community with a proud history of service exemplified by the veterans who worked bring the Memorial to fruition and asked for the legislation before you today.

The Memorial in Mont Horeb is a true labor of love, and it shows. The men and women in Mount Horeb VFW Post 9511, American Legion Post 113 and the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV put years into successful fundraising for, developing and completing this memorial.

Before we were contacted last fall I had not been aware this was something in our state statutes, which currently designate 16 specific memorials for inclusion on the map. Representative Bare and I were happy to put this bill forward to make Mount Horeb's memorial the 17th and appreciate the bi-partisan support it received.

I know that the veterans who put so much into this project were especially honored to have the Memorial recognized and visited by Denis R. McDonough, the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs late last year.

That was a Saw You in the News I was very proud to send, and this is a bill I'm honored to have been asked to put forward on their behalf.

These veterans have every reason to be proud of their Memorial and their work – and I want to thank the committee for considering the bill. We have also included a copy of a resolution from the Village of Mount Horeb demonstrating the strong community support for their veterans and this bill.

I am sorry I wasn't able to join you today, I thank you for your consideration of this bill and Rep. Bare and I ask for your support.

RESOLUTION 2024-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADDITION OF MOUNT HOREB VETERANS MEMORIAL TO STATE HIGHWAY MAPS

WHEREAS, the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association planned, fundraised and constructed a memorial to Mount Horeb Area Veterans on the Village's East side; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the dedication of the Association the Memorial has become a destination for Veterans all over Wisconsin and the Country; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the Memorial to state transportation maps will allow more people to visit and view the tribute to those that have served our county; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mount Horeb thanks Senator Hesselbein and Representative Bare for their work to add the Memorial to the state transportation maps; and

Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mount Horeb supports the addition of the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to state highway maps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Mount Horeb calls on the State Legislature to approve Assembly Bill 558 and Senate Bill 521; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of the adopted resolution to Mount Horeb's Legislative Delegation, the Governor, and Legislative Leadership.

Introduced and passed this 3rd day of January 2024.



Ryan Czerwinski, Village President

ATTEST:



Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk



January 22nd, 2024

Senator Cory Tomczyk, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

Senator Robert Cowles Vice Chair, Committee Members Senator Rob Hutton, Senator Tim Carpenter and Senator Brad Pfaff

Senators:

The Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association would like to thank Senator Dianne Hesselbein for introducing SB521 and we would request your favorable consideration of this legislation. Our Association is made up of more than 200 veterans from the Mount Horeb American Legion, Post 113, Mount Horeb VFW, Post 9511 and Wisconsin Viet Nam Veterans Chapter IV and we are extremely proud of our Memorial.

The Memorial pays tribute to all veterans killed, missing in action or prisoners of war. We have more than 450 veterans pavers that are inscribed with more than 600 names of veterans.

Last week the Mount Horeb Village Board passed a resolution supporting this legislation. In addition, on December 29th, 2023 we had the honor of meeting Mr. Denis McDonough, the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs and providing a tour of our Memorial.

Our Association has worked very hard to create what we believe is one of the finest Memorials in Wisconsin and would respectfully request you approve Senate Bill 521. Thank you.

Jeff Anderson

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Donald Hartman

Executive Director



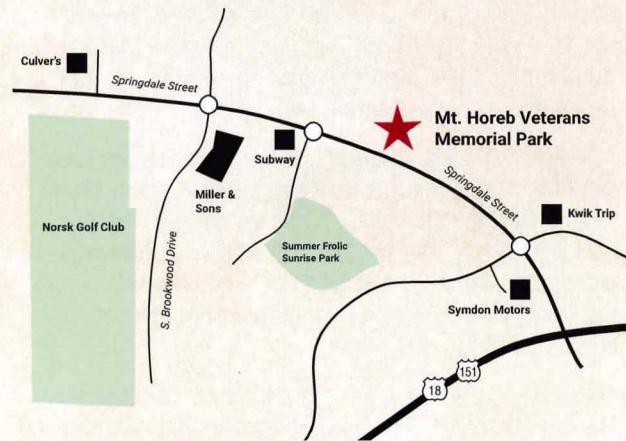
Memorial Groundbreaking 6/14/2020.

"Your entire group deserves credit for such a well-organized, efficiently run fundraiser. Before even asking for a nickel, a dream evolved into a concept and then a plan spelling out exactly what needed to be done, in what order, and by whom. Obstacles were met head on and solved. Those tasked with meeting potential donors did so with respect, humility, and appreciation. Those tasked with promoting and cooking for the wonderful steak feeds did so with smiles, all while keeping their eye on the mission to build a beautiful memorial in honor of all veterans, near and far. Yes, you've come a long way...all because of the determination to make the dream become a reality, and it did!"

- Cathy Diotte Scott, Mount Horeb Village Board



Memorial Dedication 9/26/2021.



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 Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
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**MOUNT HOREB
 VETERANS
 MEMORIAL PARK**



Navy veteran Willie Hefty's 90th birthday.

OUR MOUNT HOREB VETERANS MEMORIAL



The Mount Horeb Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9511, Mount Horeb American Legion Post 113, and the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV partnered in 2018 to establish and build our Veterans Memorial Park. The three organizations created the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that is managed by a board of directors. It is our mission to recognize the service and sacrifices made by all veterans.

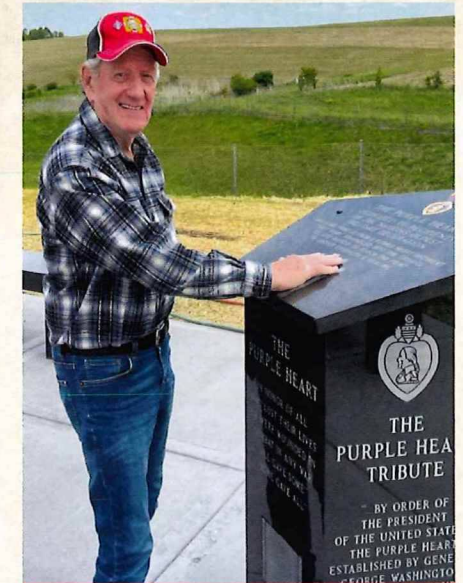
The memorial incorporates design features honoring all five branches of the armed forces: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. There are 10 flags circling the Freedom Tower: a black granite pentagon supporting white granite pillars representing each branch.

Five black granite tributes honor the American Flag, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Purple Heart recipients, and fallen soldiers: men and women killed in action, missing in action, and prisoners of war. In addition, there are more than 400 veterans' pavers that are inscribed with the names of 600+ veterans.

We are extremely proud of our Veterans Memorial Park and very appreciative of the support we received from the Mount Horeb village board, our many volunteers, our donors, our contractors, and of course the entire Mount Horeb community.



Board of Directors.



Corpsman "Doc" Schmidt, Vietnam veteran, at the purple heart tribute.

