



ROBIN J. VOS

SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Testimony on Assembly Bill 249
Assembly Committee on Transportation
June 4, 2019

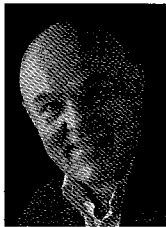
Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 249 (AB 249). Every day, over 11,000 miles of state highway and 5,000 bridges are used by residents and visitors navigating our state. Over 40 of those passageways have been named in honor of individuals, veterans and other groups the legislature has deemed worthy of recognition; impressing upon travelers our state's values.

Due to the importance of this designation, the naming of a state highway or bridge should not be taken lightly. Those we honor today will remain for decades as a symbol of our state's pride and a reflection of our beliefs. Representative Considine and I have introduced AB 249 in an effort to preserve the integrity of this tradition so citizens of our state, such as Staff Sergeant Busch, receive the recognition they deserve.

AB 249 contains a set of ten guidelines that will ensure those who have shown exceptional service and dedication while bringing pride and honor to our state receive this meaningful designation. The bill establishes qualifications for individuals, stating an honoree must provide extraordinary public service, a substantial and proven contribution to the public good or outstanding service to the nation through a specific event. The individual must have also received a state or federal award or recognition for their service as well as a continued recognition plan.

The bill goes further to state an honoree must have a strong connection to the community in which the highway is located as well as have received no opposition to this designation. The honoree will also have to have lived in the state of Wisconsin at the time of their death and must be deceased for more than 5 years. Finally, any bill brought forward must identify the segment of highway or bridge, be authored by the district's representative, and must be of no cost to the state. The bill does state that a designation cannot supersede an existing designation unless sources can prove the original recognition was fraudulent or reflects negatively on the community.

This bill will set a new standard to allow for us to recognize those who have dedicated their life to the service of their communities and our state. Please join me today in supporting Assembly Billy 249 and preserving this high honor for generations.



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To: Assembly Committee on Transportation
From: Representative Dave Considine
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 249
Date: June 4, 2019

Chairperson Kulp, Vice-Chair Spiros, and fellow committee members, thank you for holding a public hearing today on Assembly Bill 249. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation, and I'm grateful for your willingness to listen.

Earlier this year there were two proposals introduced, AB 9 and AB 77, both related to honorary bridge and highway naming. One of them passed and I am hoping that the second one that passes will honor Staff Sergeant Daniel D. Busch. There are certainly many individuals deserving some honor. Many are given that by communities, universities, schools, and public venues.

Assembly Bill 249 lays out a series of standards only for the naming of honorary highway and bridge designations. Two of these criteria include that the honoree must have provided extraordinary public service, and that there must be a community consensus on the naming where the highway is located. These are commonsense guidelines by which I believe honorary highways and bridges should be named, and I hope that the bill passes out of committee and our state is able to continue naming roadways after deserving individuals.

Thank you for scheduling this public hearing and for your time and attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dave Considine