

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 114

Short Title: American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Warner, Hurley, Lucas; Barefoot, Esposito, Justus, Morris, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Transportation.

February 15, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE U.S. HIGHWAY 70 IN NORTH CAROLINA AS THE
2 "BLUE STAR MEMORIAL AND AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3 HIGHWAY".
4

5 Whereas, many patriotic North Carolina citizens have served meritoriously in
6 the armed forces of the United States of America in conflicts necessary to preserve the
7 liberty and independence of this nation and to promote and project the democratic,
8 freedom-loving values championed by this country; and

9 Whereas, some of these North Carolina soldiers suffered wounds, often with
10 imminent danger to their lives and with grievous pain, while engaged in combat with
11 and being held prisoner by the enemy; and

12 Whereas, in many cases, these soldiers continued heroic determination and
13 effectiveness, while ignoring their intense physical pain and the constant threat to their
14 lives; they staunchly refused to divulge information to aid the enemy; and

15 Whereas, the United States of America reserves a special combat decoration
16 for these held prisoners of war, The Prisoner of War Medal; and

17 Whereas, many ex-prisoners of war have been awarded The Prisoner of War
18 Medal for their sacrifice in service to America, their fellow citizens, their combat unit
19 and their comrades, and in recognition of their personal suffering and their fierce
20 determination never to capitulate; and

21 Whereas, North Carolina ex-prisoners of war should be remembered across
22 this great State for their personal endurance without food, without heat, without the
23 essentials of health, and without communication; and

24 Whereas, these courageous soldiers, who suffered great stress and hardship to
25 their minds and bodies while rendering heroic service to their country, should also be
26 specially honored for their patriotic valor in combat; and

1 Whereas, other states along United States Highway 70 have designated the
2 highway within their borders as the "American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway"; and

3 Whereas, currently, United States Highway 70 within the borders of North
4 Carolina is designated as the "Blue Star Memorial Highway" which pays tribute to those
5 killed during World War II; and

6 Whereas, it is appropriate that this legislative body also recognize with the
7 most profound gratitude the heroic, patriotic service of all North Carolina ex-prisoners
8 of war across this great State; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 136-102.1 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 136-102.1. Blue Star Memorial and American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway.**

12 All of the United States Highway #70, wherever located in North Carolina, shall,
13 ~~from enactment and ratification of this section,~~ Carolina shall be known and designated
14 as the "Blue Star Memorial and American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway." The
15 designation shall pay tribute to the many North Carolinians killed during World War II
16 and to all North Carolina's ex-prisoners of war.

17 ~~No State highway funds may be expended for the erection of signs designating the~~
18 ~~highway as provided in this section."~~

19 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Transportation shall, with the assistance of
20 the Division of Veterans Affairs, design and place appropriate signage consistent with
21 State and federal regulations near U.S. Highway 70 within the borders of North
22 Carolina implementing Section 1 of this act.

23 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.