



MAINE RETIRED TROOPERS ORGANIZATION

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Subject: LD 537

April 7, 2021

An Act to Dedicate Sections of Maine's Interstate Highway System to Fallen State Troopers.

Dear Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

I am testifying in support of LD 537. As the President of the Maine Retired Troopers Organization, and on behalf of approximately 400 Maine Retired Troopers I thank you for sponsoring LD 537. On the day we all signed up for one of the hardest jobs in America, all we ever wanted to do was protect the citizens of this great state.

The law enforcement profession comes with great pride of service and unfortunately many risks. Every day, we start our work, not knowing what danger lies ahead. It is a calling not many will understand. What person runs towards danger, risks their lives for people they do not even know?

When a Trooper is killed in the Line Of Duty, they have sacrificed more than themselves, their families, friends and neighbors.... a part of Maine has died also.

This year we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The Maine State Police. Over the past 100 years, we have lost 12 Troopers who have died in the Line Of Duty. It is a fitting tribute to those fallen Troopers that we remember them by placing a sign in Memoriam for their sacrifices.

I am hopeful, that in todays society we can show the millions of visitors, and the citizens of Maine, that the state police, which is one of the best agencies in the country, are not forgotten.

I have included several additional testimonials for your information to provide to the Committee on Transportation.

Respectfully,

The following are a few testimonials in support of LD 537:

Dear Senators Burns and Diamond,

I am pleased of your support of bill #LD 537

It is especially meaningful to me as my beloved husband Giles R Landry patrolled I-95 from 1977 when he graduated from police academy until September 1988 when he was promoted to detective.

He loved "the Pike" called it his road. Many a night as the sleet and ice pelted my bedroom window I'd lay awake thinking of him and how many wrecks he'd be covering. I'd pray for safety.

Unfortunately, on March 31, 1989 he was fatally shot while investigating a domestic situation.

Those officers who gave their lives protecting the State they loved deserve to be recognized and honored.

It is very much appreciated by me.

Thank you,
Louise Landry Mease

TO: Whom It May Concern

FR: Lois-Ann Holmes, Widow of MSP Det. Ralph D. Holmes

RE: Support of Fallen State Trooper Dedication Program LD 537

DT: March 29, 2021

In the past 5 years, I had have the pleasure to travel all of the lower 48 States in our Nation. One thing I noticed which was strikingly different than Maine was road signs along many highways and small by ways. It was amazing to see many states had Memorial Signs for Fallen Troopers (and other Law Enforcement Officers as well) along the roads.

These signs were not intrusive in any way or distracting. They were a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice the officers had made and an honor to their memory and families.

In this year, 2021, during the celebration of the 100th year of the Maine State Police, it would be fitting to enact the Fallen State Trooper Program.

Respectfully,
Lois-Ann Holmes, RN, BS

“I think it is important for the public to see how many LEOs are killed in the line of duty especially today when people do not think as highly of police officers as they did in the past.”

Richard B. Maguire
MSP Retired 1982-2015