



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

Support of SB 461

Testimony for the Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee

2/14/2013

My name is Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson. I represent the cities of Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, and Wood Village. I am here testifying in support of SB 461. Renaming I-84 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway would be a tribute to the armed forces that served in the war in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975, especially those who became casualties. Vietnam veterans have a special place in my heart because they come from my era. I had many friends who served, several of whom died, and some who came back with post-traumatic stress disorder. I had the honor of flying in and out of Vietnam, Saigon and Cam Ranh Bay when I was working for Pan American Airlines. It was 1969 and 1970 and my first exposure to war and the impact it had on our soldiers. I remember when they would board the plane and some of their faces were ashen; the looks in some of their eyes vacant. Many were kind and professional. I could not believe how quiet they were. I was extremely moved.

This bill would mean a lot to me and to Vietnam veterans. On September 15, 2012 the Oregon State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America approved a proposal to designate all of Interstate 84 in Oregon as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. The hope is to dedicate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway on Veterans Day, 2013.

