



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Rep. Gary Hebl/608-266-7678

PRESS RELEASE

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY BILL PASSES

MADISON - The Georgia O'Keeffe Memorial Highway Bill was recommended for passage after state assembly members debated the issue at the State Capitol.

This bill directs the Department of Transportation to reserve and mark the segment of State Highway 19 that runs between the cities of Sun Prairie and Marshall. The designated portion of the highway will be named the "Georgia O'Keeffe Memorial Highway" and will recognize the artist's contributions and accomplishments.

There will be no state funds used for the creation or maintenance of this memorial. The only funds that will be used will come from local contributors. This bill is very important to Wisconsin residents, especially those coming from the southeast area. As many people know, Georgia O'Keeffe was born in Sun Prairie, in 1887. Although she spent only 12.5 years in this beautiful state, residents take pride in the fact that her outstanding life and dedication to art began in a town that belongs to us.

Unlike many other artists of her time, Georgia O'Keeffe was alive to receive many awards for her work. She was honored with the Medal of Freedom, which was presented by President Gerald Ford in 1977, and she received the National Medal of the Arts from President Ronald Reagan in 1985.

Although Georgia O'Keeffe died nearly 20 years ago, her artwork remains legendary. Even young students today are able to recognize her lone, flowing flowers, which stand incomparable to others by consuming the entire canvas, or her amazingly accurate depictions of New Mexico's mountains and deserts.

It is for this reason that we should continue to honor the life-long career of Georgia O'Keeffe. By designating a section of State Highway 19 and naming it the "Georgia O'Keeffe Memorial Highway", we are taking pride in the place that this woman came from - a place that connects us to a legend - a place that we all call home.

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