



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sen. Mark Spreitzer, 608-266-2253

Rep. Ellen Schutt, 608-237-9131

Rep. Clinton Anderson, 608-237-9145

Rep. Jenna Jacobson, 608-237-9143

Bipartisan Coalition of Local Legislators Celebrate Legislature Passing the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway Bill

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a bill authored by a bipartisan coalition of local legislators to designate Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville as the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway. After graduating from Parkview High School in 2009, Corporal Benjamin Neal joined the U.S. Army and was on his second deployment when he was killed in action in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province on April 25, 2012.

2023 Senate Bill 223 was previously passed by the State Senate in November 2023, and will now be sent to Governor Tony Evers for his signature.

Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit):

“I am deeply grateful to the bipartisan coalition of legislators and advocates who worked together on this important bill. I would particularly like to thank Post Commander Kurt Stuvengen, the members of the Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville, Bill Fitters and the American Legion Riders, and the American Legion Department of Wisconsin for their longtime and dedicated advocacy. Corporal Neal was an extraordinary and beloved member of the Orfordville community, and I look forward to Governor Evers signing this bill into law to ensure that Corporal Neal’s story and sacrifice will never be forgotten.”

Representative Ellen Schutt (R-Clinton):

“Corporal Benjamin H. Neal was a true American hero, giving up his life to serve his country. I am grateful that Highway 11 between Footville and Orfordville will display his name to honor his service and sacrifice.”

Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit):

“Renaming a section of Highway 11 after Corporal Benjamin Neal is long overdue. Corporal Neal paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our country. His military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with



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Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. I sincerely appreciate everyone who worked hard to get this bill through the legislature.”

Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon):

“I am grateful that we are honoring Corporal Neal’s heroism with this memorial. Although we can never fully show our gratitude for those that dedicate their lives for our country, this tribute is one step towards demonstrating our utmost appreciation for the Neal family and those in service from across the state.”

Kurt Stuvengen, Post Commander of American Legion Post 209:

“It has been a long emotional road to get this accomplished. I watched Ben grow from a young boy to the warrior and hero he became. He is highly deserving to be remembered in this way by his fellow Wisconsinites. Regardless of how you feel about the military or their missions around the globe, ‘Remember the warrior if not the war.’”

Bill Fitters, Officer of the American Legion Riders of District 1:

“The American Legion Riders of District 1 from Post 209 wanted to ensure that no one ever forgot Corporal Benjamin H. Neal’s sacrifice for our country. For the Riders, seeing Ben’s name as we are heading out or returning reminds us of the importance of our mission.”

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Two photographs are attached to this release.

Neal US Army Photo: U.S. Army photograph of Corporal Benjamin H. Neal.

Neal Coauthors Photo: Photo of legislators and local advocates before the State Assembly vote on 2023 SB 223. From left to right: Sen. Mark Spreitzer, Rep. Ellen Schutt, Bill Fitters, Kurt Stuvengen, Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Rep. Clinton Anderson.