

*Written testimony on HB 5572, to rename a portion of I-94 the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway
Submitted by State Representative Ronnie D. Peterson, District 54
To Chairman Jack O'Malley and the members of the House Transportation Committee
February 15, 2022*

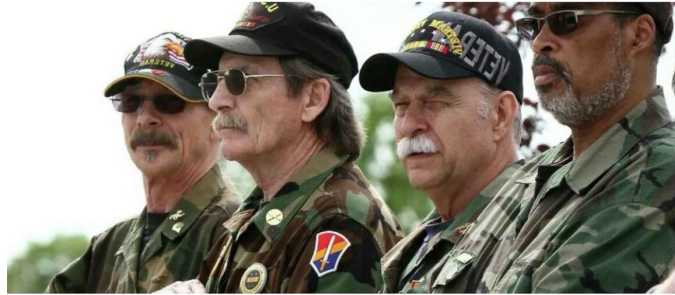


More than 634,000 veterans call Michigan home.

To honor these brave men and women, I introduced House Bill 5572 which would designate a portion of I-94 bordering the city of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township as the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

The idea for the bill came to me from members of the Vietnam Veterans of America local Chapter 310 and Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo who wanted to raise awareness of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. They explained that while hundreds of family members, friends and patriots from across the state visit this site each year to mourn, remember, and pay respect -- many more people (even local residents) remain unaware of the presence of this beautiful and inspiring memorial.

The veterans and I want to change this narrative, and we humbly request the assistance of Chairman O'Malley and the members of the House Transportation Committee. Together, we can help ensure that our fallen heroes are offered proper veneration.



HB 5572 would rename an approximately 3-mile portion of I-94 between US-23 and Rawsonville Road as the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. This would be a fitting tribute in and of itself – with the added benefit of helping to guide visitors to our local monument. The exit leading to the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Veterans Memorial is at the center of the section of I-94 which this bill would rename.



Raising awareness of past sacrifice and honoring the heroes who served this great nation is the sole motivation behind this bill. I am proud to have been entrusted to carry this important legislation and my sincere thanks goes out to the bipartisan group of 36 colleagues (including four members of this committee) who signed on as co-sponsors.

I ask for your support of HB 5572, and extend an open invitation to each of you to come to my home district for a tour of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located across from the Tilden R. Stumbo Civic Center at 7200 S Huron River Dr in Ypsilanti Township.

Please honor our veterans today with your support of HB 5572.

